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On Behalf of: Parents  
Committee: Senate Committee on Education  
Measure: SB1583

The range of activities and choices that have been taken out of the hands of parents nationwide continues to grow. Some schools have eliminated recess activities such as tag, dodgeball, swing sets, and even running shrouded as their decision to safeguard children. Some schools in the nation have banned home-packed lunches because they believe menus determined by a government agency are better than what parents may decide to pack themselves. In some districts, children's body-mass index is calculated without parental permission, which has had cases where children have been removed from the parents because the government considers the child's weight less than ideal. Isn't this discrimination? How far does this go?

The government's role in raising a child should always be secondary to the role of parents, whose rights do not stop at the schoolhouse doors. Local school boards, comprised of those very same parents, must have a say in the curriculum. The proponents of SB1583 do not know better than the local communities these children are growing up in. Actual parents, running the school boards for their own children, must have ability to educate their children as they consider best. How did we get here? This is sad that we must rally to support individual parents. I do not wish to prevent other parents from teaching material to their children. Just as I do not want material I disapprove of forced upon me. That is discrimination also.

I wonder if this is partly driven to free up space in overcrowded classrooms? Since parents are pulling their kids out of Oregon schools out by the thousands to take back control of when and what their children are being exposed to, this will make running the schools more affordable. Is this the underlying motivation? Pause for thought.