

Submitter: Mark Lucht  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Education  
Measure: SB1583

Dear Senators,

I am contacting you as an individual, and not as a member of the Molalla River School District.

I am concerned about SB 1583, as it appears to be a mechanism in which to restrict local control and creates a reckless liability for local school districts and volunteer board members.

After the pandemic, there was a perception that public school districts were hopelessly divided. Our board disagreed and spent a year working with our community to outline 5 pillars in which to base our local schools. 1,200 community members participated, and we came to a consensus. The premise: our community has both the right and obligation to set expectations on its local school district. Our community rallied around our public schools – much like it has on other challenges like wildfires and ice storms.

SB 1583 undermines all of that – and pushes decision-making to a far away bureaucracy. With few exceptions, the further decision-making is from the operation, the lower the outcomes. Student outcomes post pandemic are unacceptable in our state. I encourage all elected officials, including myself, to focus on policies and expectations that will raise student outcomes. SB 1583 is not it.

Regards,

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