



From the Office of
THE SENATE PRESIDENT

Chair Fredrick, Vice Chair Weber, and members of the Senate Education Committee,

For the record, my name is Rob Wagner, State Senator for Senate District 19 and I serve as the President of the Oregon Senate. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 1109 with the inclusion of -1 Amendment.

The -1 Amendment is a technical fix to SB 1502 from the 2024 Legislative Session. As you may recall, SB 1502 was designed to ensure that school boards, public universities, and community colleges record, post, and make their meetings accessible to the public online. The goal was simple—improve transparency, increase access, and allow more Oregonians to stay engaged in the decisions that impact their schools and communities. SB 1502 passed with overwhelming bipartisan support, securing a 29-1 vote in the Senate and a 55-1 vote in the House.

It has since become apparent that the bill is in need of a small technical fix. This technical fix clarifies an aspect of the original bill to confirm that only the governing body of these educational entities is required to post a recording of its meetings online. This ensures we are not unintentionally overburdening public education bodies by requiring recordings from every subcommittee or advisory group. The governing body is where the most critical decisions are made, and ensuring public access to those meetings is the priority.

Additionally, this fix refines the language to provide clarity in implementation and ensures that school districts with limited broadband access can still comply by posting audio recordings. These adjustments align with the original intent of SB 1502 while clarifying statutory language.

Transparency in public education governance remains a priority of mine, and the -1 Amendment helps ensure that the law works as intended. I urge your support for this simple but important clarification. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Robert A. Wagner
Oregon Senate President
Senate District 19