

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

March 23, 2005 Hearing Room E

1:00 P.M. Tapes 63 - 64

MEMBERS PRESENT: Rep. Linda Flores, Chair

Rep. John Dallum, Vice-Chair

Rep. Steve March, Vice-Chair

Rep. Debi Farr

Rep. Chip Shields

MEMBER EXCUSED: Rep. Arnie Roblan

Rep. John Lim

STAFF PRESENT: Jim Keller, Committee Administrator

Kellie Whiting, Committee Assistant

MEASURES/ISSUES HEARD:

HB 2806 – Public Hearing

HB 3174 – Public Hearing

HB 2954 – Public Hearing

These minutes are in compliance with Senate and House Rules. Only text enclosed in quotation marks reports a speaker's exact words. For complete contents, please refer to the tapes.

TAPE/#	Speaker	Comments
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TAPE 63, A

002	Chair Flores	Calls the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m. and opens the public hearing on HB 2806.
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HB 2806 - PUBLIC HEARING

015	Rep. Linda Flores	House District 51. Testifies in support of HB 2806. Explains the concern over the fading appreciation for the United States flag and the pledge of allegiance.
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048	Doug Mercer	Multnomah County. Submits and reads from prepared testimony (EXHIBIT A) in support of HB 2806. Explains the importance of having the opportunity to say the pledge of allegiance on a daily basis. Explains the existing law in regards to the weekly opportunity to say the pledge of allegiance. Comments on the schools who abide by the law and the schools that do not.
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150	Mercer	Comments on the need for unity within the classroom and the nation. Urges the support of HB 2806. Introduces his daughter, Molly Mercer.
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206	Rep. March	Requests additional information in regards to the history of the pledge.
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218	Rep. Shields	Comments about the former testimony in regards to illegal aliens.
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231	Rep. Farr	Inquires if Mr. Mercer believes by saying the pledge daily, it will alleviate conflict between students.
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236	Mercer	Responds it sets a tone of respect that will carry over.
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241	Chair Flores	Inquires if Mr. Mercer would like to state his occupation.
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244	Mercer	Responds he is a probation officer.
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264	Rep. Farr	Inquires how often Molly Mercer has said the pledge in school.
269	Molly Mercer	Responds they hardly ever said it and comments that they said it only after her father complained to the school.
275	Rep. Farr	Inquires if Miss. Mercer thinks the teachers disrespect the flag.
282	Molly Mercer	Explains the comments made in the classroom from the teachers concerning the United States and the president.
292	David Gulliver	Rep. Donna Nelson's Office. Submits and reads prepared testimony from Rep. Donna Nelson (EXHIBIT B) in support of HB 2806.
365	Rep. Farr	States when she was in school they were proud to say the pledge each day and comments on the blend of cultures within our nation.
385	Andrea Meyer	American Civil Liberties Union. Submits and reads from prepared testimony (EXHIBIT C) in opposition of HB 2806.

TAPE 64, A

002	Meyer	Continues reading testimony. Comments on the non-religious expression of patriotism. Comments on the language of the pledge prior to 1954.
035	Rep. Farr	States the students can omit the words under God and still participate in saying the pledge.
042	Meyer	Responds children can omit the words under God if they choose to. Responds that she thinks the concern is government infringement.
059	Matt MacDonald	Disabled Oregon Veterans of Foreign War. Urges the support of HB 2806. Describes his work history in education. States he taught an ethnically diverse group of students and states he never experienced a student refuse to say the pledge.
084	Stacy Mercer	Teacher. Testifies in support of HB 2806. Comments on the students she works with. States she has never ostracized a student for not wanting to say the pledge. Comments that none of her students is chorused, but rather is given the opportunity to say the pledge.

121	Gulliver	Testifies in support of HB 2806 on his own behalf.
144	Rep. March	Inquires about the existing law regarding the language of God.
150	Gulliver	Responds about the value of the word.
161	Chair Flores	Closes the public hearing on HB 2806 and opens the public hearing on HB 3174.

HB 3174 – PUBLIC HEARING

175	Jim Keller	Committee Administrator. Explains HB 3174.
180	Kaaren Heikes	Charter School Development Center. Submits and reads from prepared testimony (EXHIBIT D) in support of HB 3174. States HB 3174 would create a process, criteria, timeframe and term length for charter schools. Provides background of charter school renewal. Recommends a workforce to collaborate efforts in regards to charter school renewals.
248	Rep. March	Inquires about a probationary period being included in the bill.
257	Heikes	Responds.
261	Don Wildfang	Executive Director, Morrison Campus Charter School. Testifies in support of HB 3174. Comments on the great efforts of Oregon to navigate the efforts for charter schools. States the bill clarifies the process and guidelines to reduce conflicts between parties. Comments on accountability and renewal language.
349	Stephanie Hinkle	Director, Trillium Charter School. Testifies in support of HB 3174. States that charter school serve a range of needs. Explains the reasons for the need of a renewal process.
429	Jim Green	Oregon School Board Association. Submits the Charter School Contract (EXHIBIT E). Refers to page 21 and explains the renewal components of the contracts.

TAPE 63, B

002	Green	Testifies in opposition of HB 3174. Comments on the need of a workgroup to address the issue of renewal.
043	Laurie Wimmer-Whelan	Oregon Education Association. Encourages the appointing of a workgroup to address the renewal issue.
053	Randy Harnish	Department of Education. Testifies in neutral position of HB 3174. Comments on the idea of a workgroup.
068	Chair Flores	Gives public notice for a workgroup in regards to HB 3174. Appoints Rep. Dallum as chair of the workgroup.
080	Rep. Dallum	Comments he will establish the timeframe.
081	Chair Flores	Closes the public hearing on HB 3174 and opens a public hearing on HB 2954.

HB 2954 – PUBLIC HEARING

090	Jim Keller	Committee Administrator. Explains HB 2954.
099	Andrea Morgan	Oregon Department of Education. Testifies in support of HB 2954.
115	Rep. March	Notes the bill states the districts shall submit the plans for approval.
127	Morgan	Responds they are prepared deal with the work and the payoff will be beneficial.
139	Rep. March	Comments about the funding issues.
142	Chair Flores	Closes the public hearing on HB 2954 and adjourns the meeting at 2:14 p.m.

EXHIBIT SUMMARY

A. HB 2806, prepared testimony, Doug Mercer, 3 pp

B. HB 2806, prepared testimony of Rep. Donna Nelson, David Gulliver, 1 p

- C. **HB 2806, prepared testimony, Andrea Meyer, 3 pp**
- D. **HB 3174, prepared testimony, Kaaren Heikes, 2 pp**
- E. **HB 3174, contract, Jim Green, 28 pp**