

SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

March 20, 2001 Hearing Room B
3:00 p.m. Tapes 50 - 53

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sen. Charles Starr, Chair
Sen. Susan Castillo, Vice-Chair
Sen. Ryan Deckert
Sen. Bill Fisher
Sen. Avel Gordly
Sen. Tom Hartung

MEMBER EXCUSED: Sen. Ted Ferrioli

STAFF PRESENT: Jan McComb, Committee Administrator
Jennifer Simmons, Committee Assistant

MEASURE/ISSUES HEARD: SB 811- Public Hearing and Work Session
SB 746 – 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.

<u>TAPE/#</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Comments</u>
TAPE 50, A		
003	Chair Starr	Begins the meeting at 3:08 p.m. Opens public hearing on SB 811.
<u>PUBLIC HEARING – SB 811</u>		
048	Sen. David Nelson	District 29. Testifies in favor of the bill. Explains why he introduced the bill. Says that we have to look at our education system differently and look into creating these partnerships with local businesses.
076	Sen. Gordly	Says that she likes that these figures set a goal of 100 percent achievement.
095	Larry Sears	Manager, Community and Education Affairs, Portland General Electric. Submits written materials (EXHIBIT A). Explains how and why this program was established. Refers to the written materials. Explains outcomes of student test scores as a result of this program.
172	Sen. Gordly	Asks if this information is available in a disaggregated format.
181	Sears	Answers that he will certainly try to locate it in that form. Continues with his presentation. Stresses that this is about creating a system that works better. Says that he has learned a lot from working with schools.
299	Chair Starr	Says that this is very surprising information. States that this seems to be a bill that encourages learning. Expresses desire to help those children who come to school already under equipped. Closes public hearing and opens work session on SB 811.
<u>WORK SESSION – SB 811</u>		
368	Sen. Deckert	MOTION: Moves SB 811 to the floor with a DO PASS recommendation.

Chair Starr

PUBLIC HEARING – SB 746

424 Jan McComb

448 Chair Starr

TAPE 51, A

057 Thoren Sode

184 Sen. Deckert

189 Sode

219 Ron Gottschalk

312 Suzanne Brownlow

415 Geri Bitz

TAPE 50, B

034 Pamela Varndell

061 Jose Solano

113 Sen. Deckert

118 Solano

142 Sen. Deckert

147 Solano

165 Karen Elliott

235 Michael Marsh

303 Sue Tjernlund

393 Robert Eckstrom

TAPE 51, B

020 Larry Huch

215 Sen. Gary George

VOTE: 5-0

EXCUSED: 2 - Ferrioli, Fisher

Hearing no objection, declares the motion CARRIED.

SEN. NELSON will lead discussion on the floor.

Administrator. Explains the –1 amendments.

Clarifies that this will provide a historical reference for the foundational period of our nation.

Pastor. Reads from written testimony (**EXHIBIT B**). Says that American history and government are saturated with examples of scripture.

Asks if Sode agrees that the most recent Supreme Court ruling is the law of the land.

Answers that it is the law, but we have the right to use the process and change laws that are not right.

Businessman, Boring. States his support of the bill. Reads from written testimony (**EXHIBIT C**).

Concerned Women for America of Oregon. Testifies in favor of the bill. Submits written materials and reads from written testimony (**EXHIBIT D**).

Citizen. Testifies in favor of the bill. Says that people of all religions have looked to come to America due to its Christian influence. Says the only voices that are being heard are of the minority, not the majority. Reads from written testimony (**EXHIBIT E**).

Citizen. States her support of the bill. Explains her early education of Christianity. Says that our country has been founded on these principles and it is wrong for the government to withhold this from students.

Washington County. Reads from written testimony (**EXHIBIT F**).

Asks how he would respond if one of his students disagreed with having the Commandments posted in their classroom.

Answers that he believes all people to think that the Ten Commandments are a valuable piece of our heritage.

Asks if he would object to another faith having their scriptures posted in schools.

Answers that he finds wisdom from sages of all faiths.

Albany. States her support of the bill. Reads from written testimony (**EXHIBIT G**).

Salem, Fifth Amendment Coalition. Reads from written testimony (**EXHIBIT H**).

Multnomah County. States her support of the bill. Says that she does not believe this bill to be infringing on children's rights. Says that we should not deny the religious principles of our founding fathers.

Scappoose. Reads from written testimony (**EXHIBIT I**).

Portland, New Beginnings Christian Center. Reads from written testimony (**EXHIBIT J**). Stresses that these are not religious values, they are human values.

Tells the committee his story of learning the Ten

		Commandments as a youth in school. Says that he was raised in an Atheist home, but he remembered and realized that these were good rules for our culture.
278	Sen. Deckert	Says that in a prior bill passed, these same values are already being taught in schools.
297	Sen. George	Responds that we will never be able to take God out of the classroom. Stresses that these are guidelines that apply to all people, not just Christians.
345	Michael Howden	Oregon Center for Family Policy. Reads from written testimony (EXHIBIT K) .
TAPE 52, A		
050	Janice Dysinger	Concerned Women for America. Reads written testimony (EXHIBIT L) .
080	Patricia Smith	Oregon Citizen Alliance. Reads from written testimony (EXHIBIT M) .
148	Pete Shepherd	Oregon Department of Justice. Submits written material (EXHIBIT N) . Says that in his legal opinion, the amendments are unconstitutional.
228	David Fidanque	American Civil Liberties Union. Reads from written testimony (EXHIBIT O) . Stresses that the first few commandments are very religious.
425	Sen. Gordly	Apologizes that she must leave the committee meeting early.
441	Bob Horenstein	Jewish Federation of Portland. States his opposition to this bill. Says that these Commandments are religious and no religious symbols should be displayed in schools.
TAPE 53, A		
032	Chair Starr	Says that it has become apparent that supporting the Christian faith does not dismay many religions or people.
045	Horenstein	Gives an example of how his organization would help someone whose religious rights were being violated.
060	Enid Edwards	Economical Ministries of Oregon. Reads from written testimony (EXHIBIT P) .
074	Chair Starr	Asks what her stand on teaching secular humanism is.
076	Edwards	Answers that her association does not have a stand on this.
100	Cecelia Orphan	Student, Crescent Valley High School. Reads from written testimony (EXHIBIT Q) .
146	Desiree Brownlow	Student, Clackamas. Reads from written testimony (EXHIBIT R) .
185	Grant M. Tipton III	Salem. Reads from written testimony (EXHIBIT S) .
297	Mac Sumner	Mayor, Mollala. Urges passage of this bill. Reads from written testimony (EXHIBIT T) .
350	Bruce Anderson	Teacher, Canby School District. Reads from written testimony (EXHIBIT U) .
425	Leigh Williams	Citizen. Reminds the committee that the legislative process is to pass the laws and the judiciary process can determine its legality. Urges the committee to pass this bill and let the courts decide its fate.
TAPE 52, B		
010	Ernie Williams	Citizen. Testifies in favor of the bill. Says that we have lost our moral compass.
039	Chair Starr	Says that personally he is in favor of this bill. Agrees that we should do what we feel is right and let the judiciary process take care of the constitutionality. Adjourns the meeting at 5:53 p.m.

Submitted By,

Reviewed By,

Jennifer Simmons,
Committee Assistant

Jan McComb,
Committee Administrator

EXHIBIT SUMMARY

A – written materials, SB 811, Larry Sears, 39 pp
B – written testimony, SB 746, Thoren Sode, 1 pp
C – written testimony, SB 746, Ron Gottschalk, 1 pp
D – written testimony, SB 746, Suzanne Brownlow, 26 pp
E – written testimony, SB 746, Geri Bitz, 2 pp
F – written testimony, SB 746, Jose Solano, 2 pp
G – written testimony, SB 746, Karen Elliott, 3 pp
H – written testimony, SB 746, Michael Marsh, 1 pp
I – written testimony, SB 746, Robert Eckstrom, 1 pp
J – written testimony, SB 746, Larry Huch, 2 pp
K – written testimony, SB 746, Michael Howden, 2 pp
L – written testimony, SB 746, Janice Dysinger, 1 pp
M – written testimony, SB 746, Patricia Smith, 5 pp
N – written material, SB 746, Pete Shepherd, 9 pp
O – written material, SB 746, David Fidanque, 6 pp
P – written testimony, SB 746, Enid Edwards, 1 pp
Q – written testimony, SB 746, Cecelia Orphan, 1 pp
R – written testimony, SB 746, Desiree Brownlow, 1 pp
S – written testimony, SB 746, Grant Tipton, 5 pp
T – written testimony, SB 746, Mac Sumner, 1 pp
U – written testimony, SB 746, Bruce Anderson, 2 pp