

SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

March 27, 2001 Hearing Room E
3:00 p.m. Tapes 57 - 61

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: SJR 28 – Public Hearing and Work Session
SB 782 – Public Hearing
SB 783 – 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
TAPE 57, A		
003	Chair Starr	Opens meeting at 3:12 p.m. Opens public hearing on SJR 28.
<u>PUBLIC HEARING – SJR 28</u>		
009	Jan McComb	Administrator. Explains the bill and the amendments.
023	Judy Brown	Yamhill Education Service District, Board Member. Reads from written testimony (EXHIBIT A).
055	Cassidy Nelson	Reads from written testimony (EXHIBIT B).
074	Claire Nelson	Reads from written testimony (EXHIBIT C).
120	Chair Starr	Closes public hearing and opens work session on SJR 28.
<u>WORK SESSION – SJR 28</u>		
125	Sen. Castillo	MOTION: Moves to ADOPT SJR 28-2 amendments dated 3/19/01.
129		VOTE: 6-0 EXCUSED: 1 - Ferrioli Hearing no objection, declares the motion CARRIED.
138	Chair Starr Sen. Castillo	MOTION: Moves SJR 28 be sent to the floor with a BE ADOPTED AS AMENDED recommendation.
142		VOTE: 6-0 EXCUSED: 1 - Ferrioli Hearing no objection, declares the motion CARRIED. SEN. CASTILLO will lead discussion on the floor. Closes work session and opens public hearing on SB 782.
<u>PUBLIC HEARING – SB 782</u>		
150	Jan McComb	Explains the bill.
168	Sen. Gordly	Testifies in favor of the bill. Thanks everyone that is here to testify and has worked on this bill. Points out the importance for culturally competent teachers to help culturally diverse students.

Speaks about needing disaggregated information that would help to create solutions. Says that there is good work going on in our schools but we are still terribly behind in preparing teachers to help culturally diverse students. Says that if we want to close the achievement gap then we need to pass these bills. Says that our budget writing shows that we are more willing to invest in prison beds than education.

TAPE 58, A

070	Rep. Winters	States her support of the bill. Says that our current system of education does not equalize our society. Says that we fail to ensure that children have a quality education when we tell them to reach for the stars. Urges the committee to pass both bills.
132	Chair Starr	Comments on the school in Houston, Texas that has made great progress with every student. Asks why we do not replicate their model for success.
144	Sen. Gordly	Answers that she is not very familiar with this model.
151	Rep. Winters	Responds that there is always the basic concept that all children can learn.
175	Sen. Gordly	Reads a letter from (EXHIBIT D) .
194	Deborah Cochrane	Oregon Council on Diversity in Education. States her association's support of the bill. Says that there is not enough education for teachers to be culturally competent. Says that she has seen hundreds of minority students not meeting their potential due to teachers' low expectations of them.
310	Ron Herndon	Crisis Team. Says that this is just a common sense bill. Says that teachers are not being taught how to teach all children to read.
368	Sen. Gordly	Asks them to respond to the -2 amendments.
385	Herndon	Answers that he does agree with these amendments.
398	Cochrane	Answers that she also agrees, but believes teachers should be able to use more than one tool.
402	Sen. Gordly	Ask if Herndon would be willing to look over the amendments with them.
406	Herndon	Answers that he would not mind doing this.
425	Merced Flores	Department of Education. Speaks about the number of minority students that we have in this state. Says that we cannot fill the demand for minority teachers right now, but this bill would help to educate teachers culturally.

TAPE 57, B

053	Martin Salinas	HEART. Submits written material (EXHIBIT E) .
153	Sen. Gordly	Asks if he approves of the -1 amendments.
162	Salinas	Answers that he is not familiar with the amendments.
175	Louis Pitt Jr.	Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. States his support of the bill. Speaks about their need to protect themselves and their culture. Comments on feeling inadequate as a child when he did not understand the words that people of other cultures used for the same things.
319	Sen. Gordly	Comments on the Oregon History bill.
350	Joyce Harris	Director, Equity Center, Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory. Speaks about their program.

TAPE 58, B

023	Sen. Gordly	Asks Harris to comment on whether this should be cultural competence or multicultural competence.
029	Harris	Answers that multicultural competence is more inclusive.

033 Sen. Gordly Says that there are things missing from the –1 amendments that were supposed to be on them.

050 Everette Rice Oregon Commission on Black Affairs. Reads from written testimony **(EXHIBIT F)**.

088 Johnny Lake Reads from written testimony **(EXHIBIT G)**.

172 Sen. Gordly Asks Lake to speak about his experiences.

177 Lake Answers by relating some of his life experience.

214 Chair Starr States his appreciation of the testimony and relates his experience as a white man growing up in the south.

245 Andrea Meyer American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon. Reads from written testimony **(EXHIBIT H)**.

272 Teresa Carter Oregon Education Association. Reads from written testimony **(EXHIBIT I)**.

TAPE 59, A

030 Sen. Gordly Asks if there were no bill like this, what would be being done to handle this problem.

035 Carter Answers by explaining what the OEA is currently doing to promote cultural competence of teachers.

060 Sen. Gordly Asks what priority it is for the OEA.

068 Carter Answers that it is among the top five priorities for the OEA.

079 Chair Starr Comments that the achievement gap has either widened or stayed the same for the last ten years.

097 Carter Says that Oregon is really trying to close this achievement gap.

113 Chair Starr Says that we spend too much time examining the problem and not enough time actually fixing it.

124 Carter Responds that we should look at what we want teachers to be able to accomplish.

137 Sen. Deckert Says that we need a more diversified teaching workforce.

154 Carter Agrees that this would help with cultural competence.

169 David Myton Teacher Standards and Practices Commission. Reads from written testimony **(EXHIBIT J)**.

231 Sen. Gordly Thanks Myton for his help in working on this bill.

252 Annalivia Komyate Teacher, Salem. Testifies in favor of the bill. Says that she and her siblings all dropped out of Salem schools due to not enough cultural understanding. Says that in her training as a teacher, she was not trained enough in cultural competency. Speaks about her experience as a private school teacher.

387 Sen. Gordly Thanks Komyate for her testimony.

406 Lea Williams Teacher. Speaks about the importance of all students being able to read. Stresses the usefulness of phonics as a reading tool.

TAPE 60, A

040 Chair Starr Closes public hearing on SB 782 and opens public hearing on SB 783.

PUBLIC HEARING – SB 783

121 Jean Thorne Governor’s Policy Advisor. Reads from written testimony **(EXHIBIT K)**.

183 Chair Starr Asks if this is intended for all schools of higher education.

189 Thorne Answers yes.

190 Julie Brandis Associated Oregon Industries. Reads from written testimony **(EXHIBIT L)**.

258 Sen. Castillo Asks why we would not want a means test to be sure that we are helping students.

271 Brandis Answers that the test specified in the amendments is not being used for the right reasons.

315	Sen. Castillo	Says that this bill takes money out of K-12 education without accountability.
380	Brandis	Responds that they would support means testing for certain reasons but not as specified in the amendments.
420	Sen. Gordly	Reminds the committee that we have sought help from Joyce Harris with this bill.
TAPE 61, A		
007	Erin Campbell	Lake Oswego School district. Reads from written testimony (EXHIBIT M) .
060	Linda Brown	Lake Oswego School Board Member. Submits written material (EXHIBIT N) .
115	Sen. Deckert	Asks if their school district has had a chance to look at the current school budget.
135	Brown	Answers that they have been flat funded for the last ten years.
154	Rep. Bates	Says that there are some students that will not take advantage of other programs and this might work for them. Says that this provides an option for parents and students. Says that he does not want this bill to be aimed at those students that will succeed no matter what. Speaks about funding going to students in private schools.
231	Sen. Gordly	Says that they will figure out a way to make this bill work.
245	Sen. Deckert	Asks Bates his opinion on waivers.
259	Rep. Bates	Answers that a waiver for very small districts is appropriate.
282	Sen. Deckert	Says that the intent of waivers is to ensure healthy competition.
301	Aron Carleson, Marcia Arganbright	Hillsboro School District. Reads from written testimony (EXHIBIT O) .
TAPE 60, B		
025	Kathy Leslie	Beaverton School District. Reads from written testimony (EXHIBIT P) .
106	James Sager	Oregon Education Association. Reads from written testimony (EXHIBIT Q) . Says that their number one priority is lifting up low performing schools.
215	Sen. Gordly	Asks if he has met with leadership people of color regarding education reform.
242	Sager	Answers that he has not done so but has plans to do so in the near future.
298	Sen. Deckert	Asks if they are comfortable with any district under one thousand students opting out.
312	Sager	Answers that he does not see a problem with that.
316	Sen. Deckert	Says that he believes it should only apply to small schools.
331	Gary Andeen	Oregon Independent College Association. Says that he does not believe that there is a constitutional problem with this bill.
390	Chair Starr	Closes public hearing on SB 783 and adjourns the meeting at 6:48 p.m.

Submitted By,

Reviewed By,

Jennifer Simmons,
Committee Assistant

Jan McComb,
Committee Administrator

EXHIBIT SUMMARY

- A – written testimony, SJR 28, Judy Brown, 3 pp**
- B – written testimony, SJR 28, Cassidy Nelson, 1 pp**
- C – written testimony, SJR 28, Claire Nelson, 1 pp**
- D – written testimony, SB 782, Mayor Jim Torrey, 1 pp**
- E – written material, SB 782, Martin Salinas, 8 pp**
- F – written testimony, SB 782, Everette Rice, 2 pp**
- G – written testimony, SB 782, Johnny Lake, 4 pp**
- H – written testimony, SB 782, Andrea Meyer, 1 pp**
- I – written testimony, SB 782 Teresa Carter, 7 pp**
- J – written testimony, SB 782, David Myton, 2 pp**
- K – written testimony, SB 783, Jean Thorne, 1 pp**
- L – written testimony, SB 783, Julie Brandis, 4 pp**
- M – written testimony, SB 783, Erin Campbell, 1 pp**
- N – written material, SB 783, Linda Brown, 1 pp**
- O – written testimony, SB 783, Aron Carleson, Marcia Arganbright, 7 pp**
- P – written testimony, SB 783, Kathy Leslie, 4 pp**
- Q – written testimony, SB 783, James Sager, 2 pp**