

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

April 27, 1993      Hearing Room E 1:30 p.m.      Tapes 61-64

MEMBERS PRESENT:    Rep. Carolyn Oakley, Chair Rep. Patti Milne Rep. John Schoon Rep. Larry Sowa Rep. Sharon Wylie

MEMBER EXCUSED:    Rep. Jim Whitty, Vice-Chair Rep. John Meek

STAFF PRESENT:      Linda Sample Brown, Committee Administrator  
Carolynn Gillson, Committee Assistant

MEASURES CONSIDERED: HB 2473 - Authorizes TSPC to enter into reciprocal agreements, PUB HB 2619 - Dir. sch. dists. to acquire firearm safety education prog., PUB HB 2983 - Req's pub. sch. to implement firearm safety program, PUB HB 3332 - Est. curriculum & instructional stds for sex ed courses, PUB HB 3338 - Est. curriculum for sex ed & family life classes, PUB

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These minutes contain materials which paraphrase and/or summarize statements made during this session. Only text enclosed in quotation marks report a speaker's exact words. For complete contents of the proceedings, please refer to the tapes. [--- Unable To Translate Graphic ---]

TAPE 61, SIDE A

005    REP. CAROLYN OAKLEY, chair:    Calls the meeting to order at 1:40 p.m.

Public Hearing on HB 2619 and HB 2983 Rep. Liz VanLeeuwen Rod Harder, Oregon Sportsmens' Defense Fund Jim Green, Oregon School Boards Association (OSB A) Greg McMurdo, Department of Education (DOE) Marv Evans, Confederation of Oregon School Administrators (COSA) Kevin Starrett, Gun Owners of America Rep. Kevin Mannix Jim Coughlin, Four Corner Rod & Gun Club

022    SAMPLE BROWN, Committee Administrator: Reviews the changes in the HB 298 3-3 (EXH. A)

031    REP. LIZ VANLEEUVEN, District 37: Explains what the bill provides for. > Notes that 250 children were killed last year in accidental shootings.

075    ROD HARDER, Oregon Sportsmens Defense Fund: Supports the proposed amendment and suggests changing the language on page 2, line 8 of the amendment to "a total of three hours".

090    JIM GREEN, OSB A: Concerned about putting the language in the statute because schools already have the ability to get this type of program. Pledges to use their publications to get the information out about the program to local school districts and board members. 105 GREG McMURDO, ODE: ODE takes the same position as the OSB A and believes it is a good program. > Explains how they get information out to schools regarding this and similar programs.

134    MARV EVANS, COSA: Agrees with earlier testimony that it is a good

program but does not need to be in the statutes.

152 REP. MILNE: Are you aware of any schools that are currently using the program?

McMURDO: No, I am not. The DOE does not have any set way to determine if schools are using optional curriculum.

GREEN: The OSB A was made aware of the program last August or early September. Some school districts may include this in their outdoor education programs.

McMURDO: Impressed with the neutrality in the educational materials so they are not seen as pro-gun.

REP. MILNE: Supports the program but believes it should not be mandated.

219 KEVIN STARRETT, state representative for Gun Owners of America: We know that firearm safety education programs can save lives. Concerned about not mandating the programs.

253 REP. KEVIN MANNIX: Explains why this is an important safety issue and not a political issue. > Requested the bill because he did not feel school districts were doing anything about it. > Cares about having a program where there are results.

345 JIM COUGHLIN, Four Corner Rod & Gun Club in Salem: Talks about one school in Salem that is starting to teach gun safety. > Has no problem if the program is discretionary or mandatory. Just wants the program to get started.

Public Hearing on HB 2473 David Myton, Teachers Standards and Practices Commission (TSPC)

388 DAVID MYTON, TSPC: Explains what the bill does. > Does not object to proposed -1 amendment to delete the Canadian provisions (EXH. B). > It would allow TSPC to select among states with similar requirements to enter into agreements with and exchange educators. > COSA, OSB A, and OEA support the bill.

CHAIR OAKLEY: How many states have this type of reciprocal agreement?

MYTON: Reviews provisions of three reciprocity options currently in the U.S and talks about the benefits to Oregon educators. > Most of the 11 western states meet Oregon requirements. Greatest exchange is with California.

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036 REP. MILNE: Concerned about the costs of contracting with an educator for 3 months and refers to the fiscal analysis on the bill (EXH. C).

MYTON: We do not have the staff resources to analyze the preparation licensure requirements with each of the other states to make the decision of equivalency. An additional staff person would be needed to do the analysis. After the analysis is done, there would only be a maintenance function that could be done with existing resources.

REP. MILNE: Will there be any personnel check or is it left up to the school district?

MYTON: TSPC does the background check regardless of whether there is a reciprocity agreement. It checks the law enforcement data system records. In order to gain access to out-of-state criminal histories, we need the ability to fingerprint. We are seeking that approval in a senate bill.

REP. SOWA: In the state of Washington, several hundred prospective teachers have been discovered to have criminal records. Nothing stops them from applying for jobs in Oregon.

MYTON: The state of Washington has had fingerprinting for approximately one year. The first 20,000 sets of prints submitted to the FBI resulted in 900 rap sheets coming back. > Talks about fingerprint bills in other committees.

107 EVANS: Supportive of this bill and the fingerprinting bill. Not interested in putting the two issues together in one bill.

REP. SCHOON: Why do we need this bill if it does not include provisions for getting good teachers?

EVANS: The issue of hiring good teachers does not change because of the reciprocity issue.

Public Hearing on HB 3332 and HB 3338 Bill Casey, Traditional Values Coalition of Oregon Rep. Charles Starr Deanne Larsell, Portland Public Schools Lauren Moughlin, Women's Rights Coalition (WRC) Janet Arhens, American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) Dennis Tuuri, Parent's Education Association (PEA) Rose Fuller, Northwest Family Services Maura Rouche, Planned Parenthood Affiliates of Oregon (PPAO) Anne Clark, PPOA Harley Talkington, Hamilton Creek School Kati Shelton, Hamilton Creek School Genna Southworth, HIV-AIDS Resources Patricia Smith, parent Marilyn Schultz, teacher Trent Harmon, Lake Oswego Roberta Hutton, Department of Education (DOE) Shirley Barnard, Traditional Values Coalition of Oregon Paul Young, Salem

178 CHAIR OAKLEY: Testimony in support of bill was submitted by Sen. Jim Bunn (EXH. D). 200 BILL CASEY, Traditional Values Coalition of Oregon: Reviews his testimony in support of HB 3338 (EXH. E). Notes that the abstinence education under the Plan of Instruction requirements places the most emphasis on AIDS. > Provides testimony in support of the bill from Dr. William Toffler, director of the Education Department at OHSU (EXH. F).

306 REP. CHARLES STARR, District 3: Testifies in support of the bill and summarizes his written statement (EXH. G).

360 DEANNE LARSELL, Portland Public Schools: Reviews her written statements opposing both HB 3332 (EXH. H) and HB 3338 (EXH. I) because many sections in both bills are already implemented in public schools with current laws, in planned course statements and in good educational practices. > We promote the abstinence message in our curriculum. > Because students come from different family structures, public educators cannot put those family structures down because it affects self esteem of children. > Explains why measuring effectiveness of courses is expensive and difficult to do.

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024 REP. MILNE: Why is there hesitation to tell kids to say no to sex?

LARSELL: We are not hesitant in reinforcing the reasons to abstain from sex. Some people feel if you talk about birth control that you are condoning sexual behavior in children when you really aren't. > Portland Public Schools has been teaching this curriculum for a number of years. > Will supply information on their curriculum.

030 LAUREN MOUGHIN, WRC: Reviews her written testimony in opposition to HB 3332 and HB 3338 (EXH. J) because they would set a value-based standard for human sexuality education in Oregon.

REP. MILNE: If we teach that abstinence is the best choice, how are we going to lose all the children you mention in your testimony?

MOUGHIN: If abstinence is the only thing we teach, I fear the kids who don't make that choice will end up feeling judged and less. I want all kids to be cared for regardless of their choices.

120 JANET ARHENS, American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon: Testifies in opposition of both bills because the language exhibits some strong biases. > Supports family values but a statewide mandate on curriculum is not an appropriate way for each community to address it's individual needs. > Curriculum developed by Portland School District provides information included in these bill and fall within state statutes and requirements for substitution of church and state.

150 DENNIS TUURI, PEA: Testifies in favor of HB 3332. > This bill simply says that abstinence is the most effective way of preventing teenage pregnancy and sexually transmitted disease and provides for evaluating the effectiveness of the curriculum. > Would cooperate with effort to accomplish some of these things in rule as opposed to statute and would like to be involved in the process. > There needs to be some degree of accountability to the Legislature. 227 ROSE FULLER, executive director, Northwest Family Services: Reviews her testimony in support of HB 3332 and 3338 (EXH. K). Refers to brochures attached to her testimony. > Abstinence is mentioned in curriculums but is not being taught. Explains what should be included in abstinence education in order to change the goal. > Explains how it is possible to do an evaluation on the affects of the program.

325 REP. SOWA: Could you provide us with the curriculum you believe works?

FULLER: Agrees to do so but points out she is not confident all curriculum is fully implemented.

340 MAURA ROUCHE, PPAO: Reviews written testimony listing the reasons they oppose both bills (EXH. L). Refers to table attached to her testimony showing an assessment of both bills. > The language in the bills is slanted to application only in the teen years. > Explains how the language in Section 1(e) concerning sexually transmitted diseases creates a false sense of security. > Refers to court decisions in Louisiana and Florida.

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018 ANNE CLARK, health education trainer, PPAO: Reviews her testimony in opposition of HB 3332 and 3338 (EXHIBIT M). > Feels abstinence curriculum is misleading and encourages committee to look at the source of the material. > Students deserve clear, accurate and up-to-date information on a broad range of sexual issues. > Explains she teaches in the classroom as well as trains teachers in the middle schools and high schools.

095 HARLEY TALKINGTON, teacher at Hamilton Creek School in Lebanon: Testifies in support of HB 3338 (EXHIBIT N) because students need a clear message and high expectations from their educators.

203 KATI SHELTON, eighth grader at Hamilton Creek School: Talks about the student's point of view. Feels that teaching safe sex and abstinence is contradictory.

247 GENNA SOUTHWORTH, executive director, HIV-AIDS Resources: Testifies in opposition to both bills because they are biased and promote a shame-based attitude towards sexuality. > Reviews several specific points about the bills in her written testimony (EXHIBIT O). > Many of our youth are gay, lesbian and bisexual and they need support and information to keep them safe with self-esteem and identity in a culture that denies them early in their lives. > Encourages development of community-based unmandated sex education programs.

339 REP. MILNE: Where in the bill does it say you cannot teach about contraceptives and AIDS?

SOUTHWORTH: The implications of the bill are more frightening than what it says. > Talks about the use of contraceptives and misinformation. > Who will develop the information that is mandated at the state level?

400 REP. SCHOON: Reviews language in the bill and asks what is wrong with what it says.

SOUTHWORTH: My opinion is from many years of experience of working with curriculum development and with community-based organizations. The DOE has already recommended good HIV/AIDS curriculum. It is not mandated but school districts are encouraged to use it.

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012 PATRICIA SMITH, parent: Reviews the information she provided concerning the two types of sex education (EXHIBIT P) and in support of the bill. > Teenage sexual activity is the epidemic not teenage pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases. > Refers to articles from other states where abstinence education is working. > Many parents put their kids in private school or homeschooling because of the sex education imposed on them public schools. > You cannot teach sex education value free. > It is a moral and economic issue not a religious issue. > Speaks against more school-based clinics. School nurses are all schools need. > Planned parenthood does not want a threat to the lucrative bureaucracy they have established.

112 MARILYN SCHULTZ, former high school teacher: Teachers can only present information and learning requires the recipients to apply the information in some way. > Reviews language in both bills where she sees some problems: allowing 30 days for parents and district residents to have input on instructional materials only delays the

information from being available; students who opt out of the instruction need an alternative assignment; and requiring school districts to develop and use methods of measuring success of sex education programs will be difficult to achieve. > A parent dealing with a child on a one to one basis is far more effective in communicating this value than depending upon a teacher who has the students for a short-period of time. > Legislation is penalizing the wrong people.

218 TRENT HARMON, from Lake Oswego: Speaks in support of abstinence-based curriculum. Important to teach to a higher standard. Problem has not been taken care of during the last three decades.

283 SANDRA CARRIGG, teacher and parent from Lake Oswego: Reviews her testimony in support of HB 3338 (EXHIBIT Q) and explaining how the current local curriculum is failing. > Need to spend more money on message of abstinence and not on contraception and safe sex.

430 ROBERTA HUTTON, DOE: Talks about sex education curriculum being taught in the schools.

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005 HUTTON: Explains how the tenets of the two bill are already available to schools. > The evaluation piece will be difficult because we don't have control of all the variables that contribute to that kind of human behavior. > The DOE gathers data through the Youth Risk Behavior survey even though we are never sure the data is sound.

CHAIR OAKLEY: After listening to the testimony today, it appears to me we are not doing everything we can to keep some of the problems from being created. Are there some things the DOE can do to incorporate some of what these people are saying?

HUTTON: We try to interact with schools and do some monitoring on whether communities are having debates and reach compromises on curriculum. > Points out that very few schools in Oregon distribute condoms. > We need to continue to remind districts of the laws, statutes and rules we now have that could bring about much of what is in these two bills.

102 SHIRLEY BARNARD, state director, Traditional Values Coalition of Oregon: Testifies in support of HB 3338 (EXHIBIT R) because she is concerned about the way students are taught about sex.

132 PAUL YOUNG, parent from Salem: Does not agree with teaching safe sex. What we have been doing hasn't been working. Supports either bill to teach abstinence.

Written testimony submitted by Lani Williams, Let's Talk, Teen Sexuality Education in support of HB 3332 (EXHIBIT S).

155 CHAIR OAKLEY: Adjourns meeting at 4:15 p.m.

Reviewed and submitted by:

Carolynn Gillson Assistant

EXHIBIT LOG: A - HB 2983-3 amendment - committee staff - 2 pages B - HB 2473-1 amendment - committee staff - 1 page C - Fiscal analysis -

LFO - 1 page D - Testimony on HB 3338 - Sen. Jim Bunn - 1 page E -  
Testimony on HB 3338 - Traditional Values Coalition of Oregon - 18 pages  
F - Testimony on HB 3332 & 3338 - Dr. William Toffler - 4 pages G -  
Testimony on HB 3332 - Rep. Starr - 4 pages H - Testimony on HB 3332 -  
Portland Public Schools - 2 pages I - Testimony on HB 3338 - Portland  
Public Schools - 2 pages J - Testimony on HB 3332 & 3338 - Women's  
Rights Coalition - 2 pages K - Testimony on HB 3332 - Northwest Family  
Services - 13 pages L - Testimony on HB 3332 & 3338 - Planned  
Parenthood Affiliates of Oregon - 2 pages M - Testimony on HB 3332 &  
3338 - Planned Parenthood of Columbia/Willamette - 105 pages N -  
Testimony on HB 3338 - Harvey Talkington - 9 pages O - Testimony on HB  
3332 - HIV AIDS Resources - 2 pages P - Testimony on HB 3332 & 3338 -  
Patricia Smith - 19 pages Q - Testimony on HB 3338 - Sandra Carrigg - 6  
pages R - Testimony on HB 3338 - Traditional Values Coalition of Oregon  
- 1 page S - Testimony on HB 3332 - Let's Talk - 7 pages