



Testimony before the

Senate Education Committee

on

SB496

by

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Madam Chair and members of the committee,

Schools are not opposed to or in opposition to a parent's involvement in their child's education. At its basic level, education has always been a partnership between parents, schools, and the students. Parent-led school organizations, back-to-school events, site council meetings, parent-teacher conferences, and student led conferences. With technology, parents have the opportunity to be even more connected with their student's learning than ever before.

Currently schools continue to provide many opportunities for parents and community members to become involved in the everyday activities. Parents are able to provide input into many different areas. The superintendent, building principal and school board members are all accessible. Site councils at the building levels as well as at the district level are there for parental and community input as they wish.

This bill also allows a parent to object to any material or activity that may harm the child or impair the parent's beliefs. With my time in a district as superintendent I had this issue happen. We met and discussed what the issue was and made a decision from this meeting. I do not see this option in the bill. Schools are just to be ok with a parent

objecting to any material, activity, or class that they believe may harm their child?

There are many issues with this thinking.

Giving parents the opportunity to inspect materials ahead of time is already an option.

There does not need to be a law allowing this. Allowing parents to look at tests would be a major issue with teachers and administrators, especially if this was allowed before the test was given.

Schools continue to move forward with individual plans of studies which personalizes the learning for students. This bill would bring this to a halt since this process. This bill would become cumbersome and difficult to implement with fidelity. As teachers become harder to find and teaching positions continue to go unfilled, I'm deeply concerned that this legislation will only accelerate the exodus of our certified teachers.

For the reasons stated above, our organizations stand in opposition of SB496.