



Testimony of Austin DeVille, Women's Human Rights Campaign USA

Before the Oregon State Legislature Joint Committee on Ways and Means
Subcommittee on Education

On Senate Bill 52

OPPOSE

June 8, 2021

Thank you, members of the Oregon State Legislature Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education, for allowing me the opportunity to provide written testimony in opposition to Senate Bill 52.

The Women's Human Rights Campaign (WHRC) is a global nonpartisan group of volunteer women dedicated to protecting women's sex-based rights. Our volunteers include academics, writers, organizers, activists, lawyers, and health practitioners. [The Declaration on Women's Sex Based Rights](#) ("The Declaration") was created by the founders of WHRC to lobby nations to maintain language protecting women and girls on the basis of sex rather than "gender" or "gender identity." The Declaration re-affirms women and girls' sex-based rights and challenges the discrimination we experience from the replacement of the category of sex with that of "gender identity."

I am the Oregon State Contact for WHRC USA, the U.S. chapter of WHRC. My interest in the legislation before the Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education today, Senate Bill 52, is based upon Article 9 of The Declaration, "Reaffirming the need for the protection of the rights of the child." This is in keeping with Article 3 (1) of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), which states, "In all actions concerning children, whether undertaken by public or private social welfare institutions, courts of law, administrative authorities or legislative bodies, the best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration."

The Declaration states, in Article 9 (i), that state funding should not be used "to promote sex stereotyping and the concept of 'gender identity' in educational institutions, as this constitutes the promotion of discrimination against women and girls." Senate Bill 52 would promote sex

stereotyping by declaring that some students have identities based on “gender,” that is, a set of sex-based stereotypes. Additionally, the labeling of some children as “transgender” is likely to encourage the belief that they were “born in the wrong bodies,” a concept WHRC USA condemns. Article 9 (j) of the Declaration notes that identifying any child in this manner promotes medical interventions that “result in sterilization or other permanent harms.”

WHRC USA, which advocates for the rights of lesbians as well as all other women and girls, supports the efforts of educators to ensure that students receive an education that includes information about sexual orientation. However, we believe that all school curricula must be materially accurate about human biology. The concept of “gender identity” is not materially accurate or provable, so it should not be included in any education plan.

WHRC USA opposes SB 52, because of its promotion of sex stereotyping, promotion of beliefs that lead to medical harm, and inclusion of the ideological concept of “gender identity.”

Sincerely,

Austin DeVille

Oregon State Contact, Women’s Human Right Campaign USA