

Greetings.

As a student advocate, environmental health advocate and recent candidate for the PPS Board of Directors (endorsed by the Oregonian, Portland Tribune, APANO, all sitting board members at the time, etc.) I have been following the introduction and testimony regarding HB 4013.

I was absolutely speechless - and utterly offended - as I watched the last weeks public testimony online this weekend. Watching Representative Doherty arguably lie to the public about not knowing who Kim Sordyl is...it was just too much. Doherty's comments certainly cemented the perception of the intent behind this bill - to remove Kim Sordyl from the Oregon Board of Education. It doesn't matter what any of us think of Sordyl - *we don't get to use positions of power to change policy in order to silence any constituent.* HB 4013 does nothing to serve students in this state. Why are you even spending time on this? As a card-carrying progressive Democrat, this bill and time spent on it is embarrassing.

In addition, the interruption of Teresa Raiford, the founder of Don't Shoot Portland, under the guise of "mic problems" was distracting, embarrassing (yet again) and offensive. She was perfectly clear. Quite frankly, the treatment of Raiford looked blatantly classist and undermined her testimony. Please consider that next time you are addressed by any of your constituents, especially those that represent Portland's historically underserved communities.

Lastly, please wad up the piece of paper this bill is written on and throw it the trash. Use your time to focus on creating a public education system that actually works - please. Not one that is constantly ranked as one of the worst in the country. In the meantime, I will go back to work after spending my lunch break writing this. I really hope I don't have to write anything like this again.

Best,

Virginia La Forte