

From: [Rebecca Amela](#)
To: [SED Exhibits](#)
Subject: SB 801
Date: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 10:17:06 PM

Dear Senate Members of the Education Committee,

My name is Rebecca Amela. I am writing you today as a teacher, but more importantly as a mom. SB 801 would require gun safety to be taught in school at the first grade level. This is a fantastic idea.

I see this as expanding on the safety education our elementary students already receive. My daughter is in kindergarten and has been taught, in school, about giving emergency information to police, stranger danger, and what to do in case of a fire. Many of these concepts have already been discussed in our home, however students need to have information repeated. That is why we do bus evacuations yearly and practice with so many fire drills. It is also important because, even though it has been taught in our home, I do not know if other students are receiving the same education. It makes me leery of letting her or her younger brother go to another student's house.

SB 801 will also require students to differentiate between reality and fantasy, using their reasoning skills. I teach in a rural school district where owning guns is a way of life. Most of the teenagers have gone through hunter training courses. However, these courses are not aimed at elementary students and are for being in the wilderness and hunting. They do not teach that the violence that is in movies is not real. Especially with younger students this is very important. I have middle school students who will still cite something they saw in a movie as factual. Common core wants students to use their reasoning skills to make decisions based on information. SB 801 would require that the information is taught in an inclusive format.

My only concern with SB 801 is that it must be taught during recess. Each school district handles recess time in different ways. I know in my school district there are short 10 minute recesses split through out the day. This does not give adequate time for covering the much needed safety material. I suggest the wording be changed from "must occur during recess" to "may occur during recess" so that individual schools have more flexibility.

Every year there is one question students will always ask, "Why do we need to know this?" Many people will ask a similar question of "Why do we need this?" My response to both questions is the same, "Because I do not know what is going to happen in your life. I don't know when you are going to need to that one piece of information I taught you." We do not think every student will get lost, but we teach them to find a safe adult. We do not think every student will be in a fire, but we teach them what to do if one happens. We should be teaching students how to be safe with firearms as well.

My daughter is currently a kindergartner, please let her be in one of the first classes for this safety education. Thank you for your time.

Rebecca Amela
Riddle, Oregon