

TOLEDO SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 237

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SUPERINTENDENT

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March 19, 2020

Governor Jay Inslee
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 40002
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

Re: ESSB 5395- Sexual Health Education

Dear Governor Inslee:

I am writing to you as Superintendent of the Toledo School District. I am opposed to ESSB 5395 as a professional educator and administrator.

This is a legislative overreach. It inserts legislative authority into a very sensitive area and removes decisions about that from locally-elected board members. While topics of Human Growth and Development are important topics, I strongly believe that local school districts should have control of establishing learning standards and curriculum in the area of sexual health education.

This unfunded mandate further stresses our local budgets already laboring with SEBB expenses and poorly-funded Special Education services. Adoption of new curriculum and the professional development needed to support it places an undue burden on our adoption and professional development cycles. We are just beginning to recover our adoptions for core curriculum and have committed resources to other professional development initiatives.

Thank you for your consideration. I urge you to not sign ESSB 5395. The bill substantially removes local control of sexual health education and adds yet another unfunded mandate that restricts the District's allocation of scarce resources.

Sincerely,

Chris Rust
Superintendent