

**SHELLY BOSHART DAVIS**  
**STATE REPRESENTATIVE**  
DISTRICT 15



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

June 23, 2021

Timothy G. Sekerak  
Chief Clerk of the House  
State Capitol Building, H271  
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Vote Explanation on SB 236 B

Chief Clerk Sekerak,

I have voted “No” on Senate Bill 236. After carefully reviewing this legislation, I believe it presents a clear and present danger to faith-based education providers in Oregon. The First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States prohibits the government, federal, state, or local, from preventing the “free exercise” of religious beliefs by the American people. But Senate Bill 236 does just that.

Senate Bill 236 will not accomplish the goals of “equity” and “equality” that proponents of the bill cite as the reason this legislation was crafted. It will succeed in compromising the ability of early education providers, including those that are faith-based, to create a safe environment for Oregon’s youngest learners.

The cumbersome regulations in Senate Bill 236 would result in schools losing their autonomy as they are subjected to an ever growing, ever demanding, state bureaucracy. That very autonomy is the reason why so many parents choose to place their children in faith-based early education programs or private schools.

I am committed in my opposition to bigotry or exclusion based on race, wherever and whenever that occurs. Senate Bill 236 does not address that. If it did, I would enthusiastically vote “yes.” Instead, Senate Bill 236 fails to protect the Constitutional rights of private, faith-based Oregon schools, and does so in a discriminatory fashion. For that reason, I am opposed to Senate Bill 236.

Sincerely,

Shelly Boshart Davis  
Oregon House of Representatives | House District 15