



Office of Senator Lew Frederick

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## **Oregon Senate Passes Civil Rights Support for Schools**

*Bill aims to tackle a 450% increase in discrimination complaints in Oregon schools*

**SALEM, Ore** - Today the Oregon Senate passed [House Bill 2281](#), a significant legislative milestone aimed at fortifying civil rights protections in public schools. The bill will empower school districts to address and prevent discrimination more effectively.

HB 2281 requires the designation of civil rights coordinators within school districts, ensuring there is a dedicated point of contact for matters related to civil rights violations. These coordinators will be tasked with coordinating efforts to prevent discrimination, providing guidance on civil rights issues, and monitoring compliance with state and federal laws.

The passage of this bill comes in response to a notable surge in discrimination complaints within public education. Over the past few years, the Oregon Department of Education has observed a staggering [450% increase in discrimination complaints](#) submitted to the Department.

“By establishing civil rights coordinators and emphasizing training and compliance, we are taking proactive measures to eradicate discrimination and its detrimental effects on students’ well-being and academic success,” said **Senator Lew Frederick (D - N/NE Portland), who championed the legislation**. “These coordinators will help make sure all Oregon students are safe, respected, and successful in our schools.”

Discrimination in public schools has profound negative effects on students, leading to various detrimental consequences. These include diminished academic performance and ambitions, heightened anxiety levels, reduced self-esteem and confidence, depression, post-traumatic stress, deterioration in physical health, feelings of alienation within the school environment, and increased absenteeism.

Supporting Oregon’s students is part of [Senate Democrats’ 2023 Oregon Works agenda](#).

HB 2281 is one of the hundreds of bills that Senate Democrats rescued by negotiating an end to the Senate Republican walkout. Thanks to Senate Democrats showing up, doing their jobs, and

delivering results for the people of Oregon, HB 2281 now moves to the Governor's desk for consideration.

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