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Oregon State Legislature

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**Senate Democrats Pass School District Leadership Stability Bill**

*Senate Bill 1521 Establishes Job Protections for Superintendents*

SALEM – Today, the Senate approved Senate Bill 1521 on a vote of 16 to 7. This bill establishes job protections for superintendents when they are acting in compliance with state or federal law.

“Simply put, staff stability is key to supporting students,” said Senator Michael Dembrow (D-Portland), Chair of the Senate Committee on Education, who carried Senate Bill 1521. “We need to make sure that school district superintendents are protected from extreme board decisions. Our school superintendents have a difficult job and should be able to focus on keeping our kids safe in schools and improving the quality of public education in their communities.”

“The Legislature has a responsibility to step up and protect our kids from political backlash at the school board level,” said Senator Gelser Blouin (D-Corvallis). “Our superintendents deserve basic employment protections, just like teachers and many other education professionals. We rely on superintendents’ abilities to create safe and welcoming educational environments. Senate Bill 1521 will help superintendents focus on their responsibilities – helping our children succeed.”

Senate Bill 1521 creates specific employment protections for Oregon’s school superintendents. Under the measure, a school board may not direct a superintendent to take actions that conflict with state or federal law. The bill also limits the instances in which a school board may terminate a superintendent’s employment without cause.

Senate Bill 1521 now goes to the House of Representatives for consideration.

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