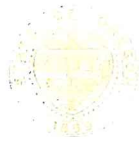


From the Desk of:
KEVIN L. MANNIX
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 21



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Dear Siuslaw School Board Members and Siuslaw Valley Charter School,

I am writing in response to an inquiry I received to my office, regarding the issue of curriculum use and its potential affiliation with religious entities in the context of charter schools. My perspective is informed by my support for charter schools and my previous legislative efforts to enact positive reforms in this sector.

It is important to clarify the distinction between the adoption of a curriculum model and establishing an "affiliation" with a religious order, institution, or church. The mere utilization of a curriculum model does not constitute an affiliation. Affiliation, in a legal context, implies a binding relationship where the affiliate entity possesses the authority to impose restrictions on operational aspects. Unless the curriculum model from Hillsdale College, or any similar institution, grants such power of control over operations, it cannot be deemed as an affiliation with Hillsdale College.

Furthermore, based on your description of the school superintendent's stance, it appears there may be a misinterpretation. A charter school employing a curriculum developed by an organization with ecclesiastical connections does not automatically result in an affiliation with that religious body.

Recent rulings by the United States Supreme Court have demonstrated a tendency to grant communities considerable discretion in their application and management of charter schools. As long as the chosen curriculum does not explicitly promote a specific religion, it is likely that your charter school board is operating within acceptable legal bounds.

Please note that this communication does not constitute a thoroughly researched legal opinion. It is merely an expression of my general understanding of the matter, based on my legislative experience and current knowledge.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kevin L. Mannix".

Representative Kevin L. Mannix
Oregon House District 21