

## COMMENTS/TESTIMONY

To: Senate Committee on Education and Workforce Development  
From: Deborah Keller, Board Member  
Oregon Christian Home Education Network  
Date: April 4, 2013  
Re: Support of SB 809

### Why eliminate testing?

1. Does not affect academic outcomes.
  - Homeschooled students excel because they are homeschooled, not because they are tested.
2. Excessive and onerous use of time and money for *parents*.
  - Diverts from resources directly impacting the child's educational materials and activities.
  - Diverts toward that which has no impact on homeschooling outcomes.
3. Excessive and onerous use of time and money for *school districts*.
  - Diverts from resources allocated to students in the district.
  - Diverts toward recordkeeping and oversight of students for whom the district receives no revenue and provides no academic input.

How eliminating testing will impact my family? We will no longer:

1. Lose a day of school.
2. Lose a day of income for working mom \$200-300 / day (income loss also decreases income tax revenue for Oregon).
3. Disrupt an entire week – we run a tight schedule; miss one day and the ripple effect impacts the whole week.
4. Pay out-of-pocket cost of testing for two children = \$90 minimum.
5. Fill out paperwork = 1-2 hours (additional lost income / educational time).
6. Maintain additional records – our house is already inundated with homeschooling paperwork and recordkeeping (completed assignments, scope and sequence, catalogues and magazines, academic plans and calendars, curriculum, book lists, checklists, tests, notebooks, art projects, science experiments, *ad infinitum*).
7. Perform an exercise in futility: Our 11-year-old son tested above 12<sup>th</sup> grade level two years ago. We are currently evaluating whether to enroll him in homeschool college. There is absolutely no reason for him to take the 5<sup>th</sup> grade achievement test this year.