

To the Honorable Chairperson and Members of the House
Education Committee:

I am sorry I could not attend this morning's meeting as I have started a new job working, again, with children that are Developmentally Disabled, which is where my passion lies with this bill.

This bill is important because it gives parents a choice in an area where parents, as a whole do not have a choice. It is evident that in the media, federal and state legislatures, communities and within school districts and schools, parents are demanding more choice in their child's education. Parents want a choice in all areas of the curriculum and in the area of testing in particular.

Therefore this bill is an answer to the parent's desire to have a more hands on approach to their child's education. What this bill is not, is it does not preclude, exclude or otherwise push any other child aside for the sake of another group of students. As you know Madam Chairman, we have children from around the world in our Oregon Schools. Many of these children have English as their second language. It takes, according to the research, 7-10 years to acquire BICS/CULP in order to have an academic language and are able to interact on an academic level. By letting parents have this option, it will help our schools in their state test scores and will give us a more positive outlook into what are children are really doing in school. I urge you to pass this bill, and stand with parents, in giving them more say relating to their child's education and academic future.