



Date: May 21, 2013

To: Senate Education and Workforce Development Committee,
Chair Hass and Members

From: Laurie Wimmer, OEA Government Relations Consultant

RE: *HB 2640A [PTA and School Board Members on OEIB]*

HB 2640A would add two missing voices on the Oregon Education Investment Board – that of a school board member and of a public school parent who is a member of the oldest and largest parent network in Oregon (PTA/PTO).

As the OEIB continues to exist – at least for a few more years – to determine the public education policies of this state, it needs to hear from a broader diversity of voices than it has welcomed to the table over the past two years. Just as public opinion diversity shapes the laws you all consider, so too should it shape the output of this powerful new education policy determiner.

We originally requested that a parent member be added to OEIB because we felt that the consumers of public education ought to be key partners in determining how our system is structured, funded, and governed. Once the bill was heard in the House Education Committee, it was merged with a similar bill arguing for a school board perspective to be added to the mix as well. We agree that both points of view are important.

Some districts do not have active PTA chapters, but that does not mean that an interested parent would be precluded from being considered by the governor for appointment under this bill. Any parent is welcome to join PTA as an individual, and could become, therefore, a nominee for this slot. The goal is to be more inclusive, not less. Please support this simple bill to add these critical voices.