



Matt Utterback
Superintendent

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June 3, 2013

Re: Senate Bill 789

To Senator Chip Shields and members of the Senate Committee on General Government, Consumer and Small Business Protection:

The North Clackamas School District is currently self-insured for medical, dental and vision benefits for employees. We have passed three separate comparability analyses since 2008 with the Oregon Educators Benefit Board (OEBB). Data clearly shows that during a three-year period, we have saved \$9,075,726 with our continued ability to opt out of the plan administered by OEBB.

Not only has our district saved money, but our benefit plan provides a comprehensive benefit package enjoyed by more than 1,600 active and retired employees. In these times of reductions, our employees depend on having a good benefit package as their pay remains frozen.

Our district serves more than 17,000 students and budget cuts over the last five years have increased to the point of reducing teachers, coping with larger class sizes, and closing schools. Had NCS D been absorbed by OEBB, our reductions would have cut even deeper into our already strapped funds, as well as incurring more out-of-pocket costs for staff.

I want to encourage you to support Senate Bill 789, as it protects districts that consistently demonstrate benefit costs savings from being encumbered by more financial burdens at a time when all resources should go toward more innovative ways of saving money. North Clackamas has proven over time that we are prudent in the management of these programs for our employees and will continue to monitor our costs.

Sincerely,

Matthew Utterback
Superintendent