



From the Desk of
Representative
Mark Johnson

Date: February 14, 2014
To: Oregon House of Representatives
From: Chalkboard Project
Subject: House Bill 4150

The purpose of House Bill 4150 is to clarify proficiency legislation passed in 2011 (HB 2220). We understand that the bill addresses that need and a collaborative process went into the version originally introduced. However, the amended bill before you today raises important questions that have not yet been addressed. Chalkboard Project believes that clarification is critical and we will work with the Senate Education Committee, the bill sponsors, and stakeholders on an amendment.

Chalkboard's primary area of concern is Section 8, added by the -6 amendment. Section 8 directs the Oregon Department of Education to negotiate the "appropriate use of the new statewide summative assessment" with the US Department of Education.

This language raises questions about the scope of those negotiations. As the bill is intended to address proficiency education and grading, we believe it is appropriate to focus the negotiations on the issue at hand. If the intent of Section 8 is to go beyond proficiency education and grading, we believe it is important to understand the purpose of the negotiations and judge the merits of the bill on those terms.

Chalkboard Project believes consensus can be built around an amendment that provides clarity and maintains a focus on determining the appropriate use of statewide summative assessments in supporting student growth.

For more information, please contact Kylie Grunow (503-707-9653) or Phil Donovan (503-522-3023).

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