

From: Kathleen [<mailto:velablanca@aol.com>]

Sent: Sunday, February 01, 2015 10:29 PM

To: Sen Roblan; Sen Knopp; Sen Baertschiger; Sen Beyer; Sen Gelser; Sen Hass; Sen Kruse

Cc: Engbring Gretchen

Subject: SB 215: Let OEIB Sunset

Dear members of the Senate Education Committee,

It is time to let the OEIB go. The board has been an expensive experiment in failed, top down bureaucracy since its inception. Since the beginning of OEIB, we have seen a highly paid Rudy Crew hired at a salary that could have paid for six to ten classroom teachers, [apparently to spend most of his time looking for a better job](#). Later came news that the Board itself seemed to be grousing about [how ineffective they are and how much more effective they could be if only they were given more power](#). Herein lies a major problem.

This board was appointed, not elected. They should not have power to decide how the state's education budget should be spent. That power belongs to the legislature, whose members are elected by the voters. The OEIB has been just one more demonstration of how Governor Kitzhaber's top down management of the state is failing. Parents, teachers and students have been virtually absent from any discussions about what kind of "strategic investments" are needed. Input from the public has been limited to two minutes at a time and framed by what the members of OEIB feel needs to be discussed. Genuine democratic participation has been stifled by this extra layer of bureaucracy that has been imposed on our state. I have to wonder: Is it designed to protect the governor from having to deal with criticism of his policies? Or to give his cronies from the Oregon Business Association plum positions from which to make deals to achieve special tax treatment?

As you may note, I am an extremely disillusioned. So are many other parents and educators. We are tired of being shut out of participation in decisions about our schools. This is like nothing I have ever seen in my 28 years as an involved parent and teacher. We don't need more control from OEIB. We need more input and participation. The OEIB needs to sunset as scheduled.

Sincerely,

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