

Chair Doherty and members of the Education Committee,

HB 2405 sounds good on paper. This bill allows the Department of Education to solicit and accept gifts, grants, donations and other moneys from public and private sources for State School Fund.

Foundations notoriously add strings to their "gifts." I've seen this at my kids' home school district (Beaverton) with funds from the Wallace Foundation and Nike Innovation Fund.

Billionaires with private foundations have an agenda. "Reform" schools, contrary to public will. Privatize education.

Often a district must supplement tax payer money for an initiative. Or a pilot project is funded and then it is summarily dropped, regardless of how much it may improve the lives of students and families.

Why not stop giving such big tax breaks to companies like Nike instead? The North Carolina treasurer has, to no avail, asked Nike for disclosure on political donations. One could argue Oregon taxpayers are subsidizing political campaigns to the benefit of this politically savvy corporation.

Funders will ask for data that will mine into the private lives of students--far beyond what the federal and state governments require. This then becomes an issue of data privacy as well.

Social impact bonds, are a worrisome example, used to pay for early education. As the NY Times describes:

Such bonds — actually loans made by investors to pay for a program — typically require a government to pay the investors a return on their principal only if a program meets certain goals and helps that entity save money... But some critics fret that monetary incentives could distort the programs, or the way they are evaluated, and that the public sector could cater too much to potential investors.

Even federal money comes with burdensome expectations. The federal waiver for NCLB is an example of a failed executive order. So much money has been spent on implementing the Common Core State Standards.

Believe me, I'd like to see more money in the education coffers. HB 2626 would authorize the treasurer to issue lottery funds to finance grants from the Dept. of Education to school districts for school-based health care centers.

As a physician, I wish we had universal health care finance through a single payer system like Canada. It makes no sense to raid lottery funds from the Dept. of Education (currently \$433 M of lottery funds go to public schools according to OEIB presentation yesterday) to pay for student health care.

The OEIB keeps coming up with new ways to spend state school fund dollars. Nearly \$1 billion this biennium on their pet initiatives! That's why I think it's time to sunset the OEIB too!

Income inequality is undermining opportunity. Please raise revenue the old fashioned way. Eliminate bad tax breaks and implement progressive taxation.

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