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February 5, 2015

Chair Arnie Roblan  
Senate Committee on Education  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

RE: SB 216

Dear Chair Roblan and Members of the Committee,

Each of us signed below work in a school district that is participating in the School District Collaboration Fund. This work has been transformational for each of our districts and is propelling both improved instruction and increased student learning.

We support SB 216, because it provides the opportunity for nonprofits like Chalkboard Project to administer the School District Collaboration Fund. As participants in this transformational work, we are both invested in the outcome and committed to the quality of the program.

We know that if Chalkboard were given the opportunity to administer the program, they would call upon their experience and expertise built over the past seven years implementing the CLASS Project and the federal Teacher Incentive Fund grant. Both of those efforts have yielded significant gains for students and teachers.

Each of our districts receives technical assistance from a coach contracted by Chalkboard through the Oregon Department of Education as a part of our SDCF grant. Our experience with those coaches and with Chalkboard in general has been of such a high caliber that we believe that administration by Chalkboard would help solidify the program at the state level and help meet the continued and growing demand for the work.

We support SB 216 and the opportunity for nonprofits to administer the School District Collaboration Fund.

Respectfully,



Andy Bellando, Superintendent  
Silver Falls School District



Andrew Gardner, Superintendent  
North Santiam School District



Colt Gill, Superintendent  
Bethel School District



Don Grotting, Superintendent  
David Douglas School District



Krista Parent, Superintendent  
South Lane School District



Erin Prince, Superintendent  
Corvallis School District

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