

Testimony in favor of HB2566  
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Good Afternoon Chairwoman Doherty and members of the Oregon House of Representatives Education Committee. My name is Celeste Pellicci. I live at 6003 SE Insley St. Portland, Oregon. I am an 8th grade science teacher in the Gladstone school district and I am a parent of a 7th grade student who attends Hosford Middle School in SE Portland.

I am here today to support House Bill 2655 as a parent and a teacher of 10 years. As a parent, I know that no standardized test results can ever indicate my son Tucker's true college and career readiness. High stakes tests do not measure the critical components of future achievement. Research indicates that Tucker's mindset, perseverance, ability to work collaboratively, and creative thinking are the most reliable indicators of his success. Time wasted for standardized testing is valuable time away from authentic learning and authentic assessment from his classroom teachers.

For these reasons, my son Tucker Pellicci will not take the Smarter Balanced test this year or any year in the future. Some Districts are making it more difficult for parents to opt their children out of the Smarter Balanced assessment. For example, Portland Public School District recently changed the wording on their opt out form, fortifying their right to deny a parent's opt out request. Districts do this because they fear low participation rates which would reflect poorly on their state report card. This fear should never drive the decisions of administrators. They should be made based on what's best for our children and our schools. Parents have the right to opt their children out of any class, lesson or unit based on personal opposition. Why would the Smarter Balanced be the exception to these standard practices?

As a teacher, I have seen standardized tests punish our most vulnerable students. The students who come from low income families, have learning disabilities, or are English language learners are at a grave disadvantage on these biased assessments. Due to these tests, I have seen them cry, give up, or feel defeated. The only valuable information gained from a test with a 30% passing rate is that it was inappropriate to give in the first place. An educator would never administer an assessment with this as the expected result--it would be unfair to the students.

I am a well-informed parent because I am a teacher. All parents should be provided the information to make the best decisions for their own children, including opting for more classroom instruction instead of time testing. Thank you for your time.