

Testimony regarding HB 2680
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This bill doesn't go far enough and hopefully will be fixed on the Senate side. Looking at the impact data for 8th grade for the students I serve (ELL) about 1% of them are slated to pass the language arts and 5% are predicted to pass the math test.

The Smarter Balanced Test is discriminatory and I have filed a statewide complaint with the Seattle Office of Civil Rights. Especially impacted are students at the middle school level are double dosed with math and language (the testable areas). Students as a result are not given access to a comprehensive education when they are denied access to electives that other students enjoy.

I was at a meeting a couple of weeks ago where some Yamhill County parents were discussing their problems with the common core standards and the SBAC test. They were very emotional about how their children were not liking school, even kindergarteners, as a result of the drill and kill type of teaching going on now.

We were led down the wrong road, with the high stakes accountability. Merely removing the accountability doesn't go far enough when so many students will be labeled as a failure. This bill gives a brief reprieve for accountability for teacher evaluation and schools, but students will not get this break.

I would urge the committee to amend this bill to also stop the test completely. It's the best thing for the kids.