

February 20, 2015

Support for HB 2680 with amendments

Chair Doherty, Vice Chairs Frederick and Sprenger and members of the House Education Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 2680.

While I support delaying the use of 2015 Smarter Balanced Assessment results to rate schools and evaluate teachers for one year, I hope that at the next opportunity the legislature will follow this with a bill to eliminate the use of state summative standardized assessments for any high stakes decisions. It is the high stakes use of these state assessments that are corrupting our public schools as places where children come to enjoy learning and exploring and experiencing a well-rounded curriculum rich with art, music, PE, library, world language,...There is so much more to school than reading, writing and math.

Smarter balanced ELA and math test scores should NEVER be used to tell our children they are "NOT ready for college or career". Smarter balanced ELA and math test scores should NEVER be used to label our schools as Level 1 - 2 (aka Focus, Priority or Failing). Smarter balanced ELA and math test scores should NEVER be used to determine whether a teacher is "ineffective."

The Smarter balanced assessments have not been validated and Oregon should not be subjecting every 3rd - 8th grader and 11th graders to a test where 65% - 70% of them will receive a notice from the state in the summer telling their parents they "FAILED." That is irresponsible and harmful to the self-esteem and well being of our children. I am appalled that our state government intends to take this action in direct conflict with what is best for Oregon's public school children.

The Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium should be conducting pilot tests on samples of students until they can prove the tests are valid before they subject every 3rd - 8th grader plus 11th graders to their excessively long and arduous tests.

Since the state is intent on doing harm to our children, parents have no choice but to opt our children out of the state's abusive test and punish regime.

As a Portland Public Schools parent, I am grateful our teacher union has taken a stance opposing implementation of the Smarter Balanced Assessments this year (attached):

[http://www.oregonlive.com/education/index.ssf/2015/02/portland\\_teachers\\_union\\_approv.html](http://www.oregonlive.com/education/index.ssf/2015/02/portland_teachers_union_approv.html)

Thank you for considering my concerns about implementing Smarter Balanced Assessments this year and for using the test scores to punish and shame Oregon's children, teachers and school communities. This abusive and corrosive test and punish system is shameful, counter productive and must come to an immediate end.

Sincerely

Betsy Salter, PPS Parent