



OREGON BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

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Oregon Business Association

To: Chair Margaret Doherty and Members of the House Education Committee,
From: Joel Fischer, Senior Policy Analyst
Date: February 20, 2015
RE: [HB 2657](#)

Chair Margaret Doherty and Members of the House Education Committee,

The Oregon Business Association has a long history of supporting education funding and is committed to ensuring all of Oregon's students have access to our minimum standard of instructional and credit hours. Students can't learn if they aren't in school and Oregon has one of the worst absenteeism rates in the nation.

Absenteeism in kindergarten is a predictor of lower achievement in later years. As we continue to make strides towards meeting the states goal of 40-40-20 with innovative new ideas like the third grade reading initiative, chronic absenteeism stands in the way.

We applaud Rep. Komp in her work with advocates to craft a solution. HB 2657 would move Oregon from an enrollment based attendance measure to an attendance based measure. All but one state that use an attendance based measure have rates at or below the national average for 8th grade students. Other supports and strategies can be enlisted to reduce our chronic absenteeism rate and this bill proposes a phased in approach.

OBA urges you to support HB 2567.

Joel Fischer
Senior Policy Analyst
Oregon Business Association