

For House Education Committee Hearing on February 20, 2015

RE: HB 2673

Dear Chair Doherty and Members of the House Education Committee:

We are Special Education Teachers in the Beaverton School District, Oregon's third largest district. We are writing this letter to urge you to oppose House Bill 2673. While a reduced timeline may appear to be a good idea, in reality it would not benefit the student, their family, or educational staff involved in the process.

STUDENT IMPACT

We believe that in order to complete a thoughtful and accurate evaluation, 60 school days are necessary. This drastic shortening of the timeline to 60 calendar days would be a detriment to our most vulnerable students and their families.

We believe that an evaluation reduced to 60 calendar days, which is proposed by HB 2673, will not safeguard our students' rights to a thorough evaluation.

TEACHER IMPACT

We believe that teachers need a full understanding of their students to appropriately address their needs. Special Education Evaluations drive decisions made when creating an Individualized Education Plan, which is at the center of the student's learning. Evaluations inform the team, including the student, of why they are struggling and how best to serve and address their educational needs.

We believe that a rushed evaluation may lead to an incomplete picture of the student. Special education teachers lead the a collaborative effort among numerous individuals, including school faculty, medical and other professional providers, and reducing the time line would significantly impact each member's ability to complete a comprehensive evaluation.

In conclusion, we strongly oppose HB 2673 and urge you not to vote for this bill.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Terry Cherney, Learning Specialist
Jessica Linderman, Learning Specialist
Lisa Wagner, Learning Specialist