

Date: 3/5/2015

TO: SENATE COMMITTEE On Education, Chair Roblan

FROM: Andrew Beach, Concerned parent and citizen

RE: SB 214 Kindergarten ADMw tied to literacy program

Dear Chair Roblan, Members of the Education committee,

I urge you a NO vote and to keep rights of parents intact as relates to early childhood education.

At a recent Beaverton School Board meeting I became aware that the ODE mandates for full day kindergarten (starting next year) is an unfunded mandate and the district will have to find space in its budget for the program...until now. It appears you create pain for the districts, and then deliver more pain along with funding to alleviate your previously created program. Having a carrot to deliver a stick surely means another carrot/stick combination is coming down the pike to fund these educational mandates. This bribery cycle has to stop.

As a concerned parent of 3 children we need to draw a line between centralized plans to sincerely implement what are supposed educational benefits, without first consulting parents. Please remember that don't have a lobby, parents don't have an association, parents don't have a union. As is obvious by all the parties providing testimony, each has the most to gain monetarily. I don't blame organizations fighting for their survival and we should consider who is gaining and at who's expense those gains are to be had. Perhaps weighting testimony by those it directly affects the most, parents of school aged families, should be considered more esteemed than that of a program that might benefit financially at another party's expense.

The move toward educating in the womb is startling. When will the experimentation end and the real educating begin? When will this committee actually hear the collective cry of parents and teachers over special interests? When will the legislature provide oversight to ODE? When will the school board become an elected position with accountability to the voters? I support public schools. I support my kids' teachers. The teachers and the parents are the parties that know best how to educate their kids, put them in power of the purse. Since many teachers and parents are working, it's not as easy for them to organize and appear before your committee. Please give control back to the local districts and schools who know best how to effectively educate.

Sincerely,

Andrew Beach
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Senate District 14