

Chair Doherty and members of the House Education Committee,

[HB 2977](#) would require school districts and public charter schools to implement a statewide assessment system in civics and require students to demonstrate the level of proficiency required by the naturalization test required for United States citizenship.

[Immigrants pay the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services](#) (USCIS) over \$600 to take this high-stakes test. Many criticize whether the naturalization test meaningfully assesses concepts or just the ability to memorize [answers to the 100 questions asked on the test](#).

USCIS truly teaches naturalization to the test, stating: "Although USCIS is aware that there may be additional correct answers to the 100 civics questions, applicants are encouraged to respond to the civics questions using the answers provided below."

We can expect Oregon students would merely memorize the answers to these questions.

The naturalization test is also an assessment of speaking, reading and writing. Clearly, this is superfluous (and is presumably not the intent of this bill).

I am 57 years old and have been a citizen lobbyist for 13 of those years. Before then, I thought my civic duty was to just vote. While I walk away mostly discouraged after a trip to Salem, I know these efforts are far more meaningful.

That said, I also know that research bears out what I know is also true. [Money buys access to politicians](#). This means the concerns of the rich will be far more deeply heard than the concerns of the poor/middle class.

Sadly, that's not the curriculum students would learn through the naturalization test.

Do not pass this bill!

Kris Alman