

March 12th, 2015

To the House Education Committee:

As a teacher in the Lake Oswego School District and as a parent in Portland Public Schools, I am writing to support the passage of HB 2713.

I would describe this moment in the state's educational history as utterly chaotic: we are implementing a high stakes test (Smarter Balanced) we know little about; we are spending untold dollars on the technology this test requires (even of 3rd graders who surely would be better served working on the increasingly lost art of handwriting their prose) and on the pre-packaged curriculum that will, purportedly, help students prepare for it; we are scrapping weeks of instructional time to facilitate the tests; without better options, many parents are choosing to "opt-out" rather than tacitly support this chaotic mess with their child's participation in the tests. The opt-out movement has exposed a whole other level of chaos in the system, as different districts, and even different schools within the same district, convey conflicting information about parental and students rights, the goals and uses of the test, the way information will be used and stored, and the tests' role in teacher evaluation and school ratings.

HB 2713 asks us to reign in this chaos with a open-eyed evaluation of *what* we are doing to our children, our schools, our teachers and our public education system and *why* we are doing it. It is time to stop excusing this chaos with references to the federal mandates of No Child Left Behind; this is OUR state and OUR public school system and it is up to us to implement policies that reflect OUR values and beliefs.

Let's start the process of taking back ownership of education in Oregon by passing HB 2713.

Sincerely,

Ursula Wolfe-Rocca

45 SE 72nd Ave

Portland, OR 97215