

March 12th, 2015

To the House Education Committee:

I wrote you last week in support of House Bill 2714. I see now that the bill has been incorporated into HB 2655. I am writing to ask that you pass this powerful bill as endorsement of parental rights and government transparency.

As a mother of a student in Portland Public Schools and as a teacher in the Lake Oswego School District, I strongly support this bill. As a parent, the current state of testing in our schools is more than opaque – it is bewildering. As a teacher, I have grave concerns about the validity of Smarter Balanced as a tool to measure student growth and learning, and even graver concerns about the impact such testing has on the classroom and learning.

But more than anything, we need a statewide, transparent conversation, between all stakeholders, about these tests: why we are implementing them and what we want from our schools, teachers and assessments moving forward. This bill brings testing out of the shadows and into the light. Parents will be empowered to ask questions, seek answers and contribute to a wider conversation about where our state is taking our children through its education policies.

Please send this bill on for wider consideration by passing it in this committee. Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have, about my experiences as either a teacher or a parent. I would be happy to speak with you.

Sincerely,

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