

March 13th, 2015

To the House Education Committee:

I am writing to ask that you pass HB 2655 as endorsement of parental rights and government transparency. As the mother of a student in Portland Public Schools, the spouse of a 17 year veteran Lake Oswego High School Social Studies teacher, and a passionate advocate for public education, I strongly support this bill.

The current state of testing in our schools is more than opaque – it is bewildering. We have opted our eleventh grade daughter out of SBAC due to our concerns about its validity and the seemingly haphazard way it is being implemented our schools. We have received conflicting information from PPS sources. Our daughter received intimidating and false information in a session that took time away from her *AP Language and Composition* course. The presenter said that students would be UNABLE TO GRADUATE if they did not take the test and when challenged, said that those who did not take the test would have to take a special course senior year focused on generating work samples. Is this true? I can't be sure given the various and conflicting messages we have received.

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. I would be happy to speak with you.

Sincerely,

Kristin W. Peri
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