

Dear Chair Doherty, Vice Chairs Sprenger and Frederick and members of the House Education Committee:

It has come to my attention that you will be considering two amendments to HB 2655 today. The -3 amendment is intended to provide all Oregon parents with the same information on their right to opt out so that some school districts cannot withhold information or attempt to deny parents their right to opt their students out of state assessments - which sadly is currently happening in the Eugene School District. Please vote yes on the -3 amendment.

The -4 amendment unfortunately strips HB 2655 of the most critical provision, parental right to opt our students out of state assessments without restriction. Please vote NO on the -4 amendment.

Thank you!

Dear Chair Doherty, Vice Chairs Sprenger and Frederick and members of the House Education Committee:

The National Education Policy Center has produced a policy memo titled, "[Reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act: Time to Move Beyond Test-Focused Policies](#)"

"In this Policy Memo, Kevin Welner and William Mathis discuss the broad research consensus that standardized tests are ineffective and even counterproductive when used to drive educational reform. Yet the debates in Washington over the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act largely ignore the harm and misdirection of these test-focused reforms. As a result, the proposals now on the table simply gild a demonstrably ineffective strategy, while crowding out policies with proven effectiveness. Deep-rooted trends of ever-increasing social and educational needs, as well as fewer or stagnant resources, will inevitably lead to larger opportunity gaps and achievement gaps. Testing will document this, but it will do nothing to change it. Instead, the gaps will only close with sustained investment and improvement based on proven strategies that directly increase children's opportunities to learn."

Over 2000 researchers signed the [NEPC petition](#) for Congress and the Obama Administration to end high stakes testing.

Until the federal government stops requiring states to institute the educational malpractice of high stakes statewide standardized testing, parents must have the unrestricted right to opt our children out of taking the common core smarter balanced tests. They are a waste of instructional time and school funding and the data are invalid and misused to label and track children, rank and punish schools and school communities and to evaluate and punish teachers.

Please vote to pass HB 2655 out of committee with no further amendments.

Thank you very much for your service on behalf of all Oregonians and the education, well being and future of Oregon's children.

Respectfully,

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