

I am writing to submit testimony regarding HB 2655:

- in support of HB 2655
- in support of the -3 amendment
- in OPPOSITION to the -4 amendment which would end up stripping away important parental control for their children's education.

As a parent of two children in the Beaverton School District I have been appalled at the damage being done to our schools by obsessive standardized testing. It is critical that parents retain control of their child's education to be able to minimize the damaging impacts of the out of control test culture.

Recently I wrote a piece for Oregon Save Our Schools titled **The Absurdity of Testing Every Child Every Year** - because it IS absurd. My estimate is that Common Core and SBAC testing take away over \$300M from classroom time in schools each year (over 5% of the annual school budget). As a businessman, this is an unacceptable allocation of a very scarce resource - a waste that would not be tolerated in any business I manage or advise. The waste is particularly appalling because the alternative is simple: Sampling. Businesses everywhere control costs for programs like this by using statistical sampling approaches - approaches which would reduce costs of testing to a fraction by testing less than 1% of students in each grade and relying on tried and true statistical technique to deliver legislators accountability.

Along with this, as a parent I am concerned by the accumulation of highly private data by the State of Oregon and ODE's willingness to share that data with outside vendors. **There is NO chance that this private data can remain private** because data theft is constant and out of control. Just today we learned that private records were stolen through a data breach that affect 11 million Blue Cross Primera customers. **If Blue Cross can't protect their insured patient data, how can we expect ODE to ensure that full data safety.** That's an absurd idea.

For these reasons, we need your help beginning to restore sanity to a system out of control. And, specifically, returning power to parents and districts while protecting our children's data.

I urge your support of HB 2655, your support of amendment -3 and your opposition to amendment -4.

Thank you for all you do for our children.

Regards,

Doug Garnett

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