

From: [Engbring, Gretchen](#)
To: oksana.glukhovskikh@state.or.us
Subject: FW: No on SB 322: Amended testimony for the public record for hearing today
Date: Thursday, March 19, 2015 10:38:59 AM

To post for SB 322 today, please.

From: kris alman [mailto:kris.alman@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2015 10:35 AM
To: Sen Roblan; Sen Knopp; Sen Baertschiger; Sen Beyer; Sen Gelser; Sen Hass; Sen Kruse; Rep Read; Sen Bates; Rep Frederick
Cc: Engbring Gretchen
Subject: No on SB 322: Amended testimony for the public record for hearing today

Chair Roblan and members of the Senate Education Committee,
Please vote no on [SB 322](#). Believe me, it's not that I don't want kids to have free college education.

On February 13, 2014, I attended a Data Collection Committee meeting held annually by the Oregon Department of Education. I was the only parent to do so as SEA technology staffers attend these meetings who must comply with coding.

I learned about the 4F code, a code which allows a student who has not earned their diploma with the traditional 4A code, to be enrolled as a 12th grader in a purposeful 5-year tract. The student's motivation would be to earn college credits, albeit through their own district.

Huh? I asked Doug Kosty, "Is the money coming from the existing k-12 pie?" That elicited a squirmy response. "To be determined..."

And the answer is: "These 'fifth year high school programs' are currently funded out of the State School Fund."

The legislature should not pass any legislation—whether it's early education initiatives (including full-day kindergarten) or "fifth year high school programs" intended to pay for college credits—without additional revenue to support the programs.

Oregon is already embarrassingly deficient when it comes to supporting k-12 education. EdWeek's annual "Quality Counts" gives Oregon a D+ for School Finance.[\[1\]](#) And that is due to spending—where Oregon is clearly failing.

The good news is that there is much less variation between the richest and the poorest school districts in Oregon[\[2\]](#)... at least for now. As a "transfer" parent in the Riverdale School District, I was appalled when the district used their website and email listserv to rally their parent and student community (a violation worthy of an investigation by the Secretary of State?) to convince the Oregon House to kill a bill[\[3\]](#) that Rep. Gelser sponsored last year which would have eliminated tuition for out-of-district kids. The RSD doesn't publish their current tuition. It was \$12,600 for grades 9-12 in 2012-13.[\[4\]](#) The combination of money from the SSF formula, tuition, local option levy and PTO fund raising doubles the money spent per student in the rest of Oregon.

So while I agree that current calculations using state school funds is unsustainable, it's unclear where revenue to support the new formula will come from. If revenue is still coming from the k-12 budget, the k-12 education will proportionately shrink. If k-12 funding increases to accommodate these students, *without increased revenue in the general fund*, then less money will go to human services, transportation and public safety.[\[5\]](#)

SB 322 also doesn't change the inequities built in when only those kids who attend a community college near their district can benefit. Will the State Board of Education "fix" these inequities by allowing online education to count?

None of this makes sense.

Then again, when I was on a Portland City Club Early Care and Education Research Committee over a decade ago, I learned how this is what perceived liberal organizations often do. With the other committed members of this committee (including Ben Cannon), I made the point that we would need additional revenue to support investments in these initiatives. I suggested a dedicated corporate income tax. Over the two years we convened, committee member Jake Oken-Berg worked for the Oregon Business Council.[\[6\]](#) After speaking with Duncan Wyse, he said, "The business community won't support that."

So there you have it. Big business says kids aren't college and career ready and they want to prove it with harder SBAC tests—siphoning more money from public schools. Big business outsources jobs and promulgates secret trade agreements[\[7\]](#) while labor[\[8\]](#), internet freedom, [\[9\]](#)environmental[\[10\]](#) and health[\[11\]](#) advocates demand transparency and fairness.

Power and money concentrate in fewer hands and income inequality soars with these strategies.

Yes, there are lots of discussion leaps in this testimony. But fully connecting the dots would make this testimony much, much longer.

Please do not pass SB 322 unless this committee figures out how to raise revenue to support it.

Kris Alman

[\[1\] http://www.edweek.org/media/ew/qc/2015/shr/16shr.or.h34.pdf](http://www.edweek.org/media/ew/qc/2015/shr/16shr.or.h34.pdf)

[\[2\] http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/local/wp/2015/03/12/in-23-states-richer-school-districts-get-more-local-funding-than-poorer-districts/#graphic](http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/local/wp/2015/03/12/in-23-states-richer-school-districts-get-more-local-funding-than-poorer-districts/#graphic)

[\[3\] http://www.oregonlive.com/portland/index.ssf/2013/04/riverdale_school_district_pres.html](http://www.oregonlive.com/portland/index.ssf/2013/04/riverdale_school_district_pres.html)

[\[4\] http://www.riverdaleschool.com/page.cfm?p=2561](http://www.riverdaleschool.com/page.cfm?p=2561)

[\[5\] http://ballotpedia.org/Oregon_state_budget_and_finances](http://ballotpedia.org/Oregon_state_budget_and_finances)

[\[6\] http://www.bizjournals.com/portland/stories/2005/08/15/story7.html?t=printable](http://www.bizjournals.com/portland/stories/2005/08/15/story7.html?t=printable)

[\[7\] http://thehill.com/policy/finance/236226-democratic-critics-rebuff-latest-white-house-trade-overture](http://thehill.com/policy/finance/236226-democratic-critics-rebuff-latest-white-house-trade-overture)

[\[8\] http://thehill.com/policy/finance/236205-trumka-argues-trade-policy-needs-to-focus-on-benefiting-workers](http://thehill.com/policy/finance/236205-trumka-argues-trade-policy-needs-to-focus-on-benefiting-workers)

[\[9\] http://www.forbes.com/sites/katherynthayer/2014/10/17/secretcy-shrouded-tpp-leaks-alarm-internet-freedom-advocates/](http://www.forbes.com/sites/katherynthayer/2014/10/17/secretcy-shrouded-tpp-leaks-alarm-internet-freedom-advocates/)

[10] <http://washingtonports.org/the-trans-pacific-partnership-an-environmentalists-nightmare/>

[11] <http://www.commondreams.org/news/2015/01/26/calling-tpp-death-pact-health-advocates-rally-outside-secretive-trade-talks>