

Chair Doherty and Members of the House Education Committee:

My name is Marcy Huss, and I am writing in support of HB 2713. I have been a teacher in the Lake Oswego School District for the past 15 years, and I am also the parent of two Portland Public School Students.

In both my role as a teacher and a parent, I have been frustrated with the implementation of our current form of high stakes tests, The Smarter Balanced Assessment. A great deal of money has been spent on the technology and training needed to support these tests, and this is money that could be spent on other areas of education. Another frustration is the time that has been lost in authentic education because of these tests. As an educator I have had to spend professional development time in order to be trained to proctor the test to students. This is time that could have been spent with my colleagues sharing ideas in order to create more engaging lessons or authentic assessments. The real disservice, however, is the lost time for students in their learning. At Lake Oswego High School we are being forced to cut our curriculum because of lost class time with the tests. In addition, my own children's teachers have had to use instructional time to complete practice tests in order to help their students prepare. In fact, the first practice test my son took this year was completed with the sole purpose of helping students learn how to navigate the technology of the test. This is simply put: time lost in true education. This lost time is in no way a criticism of my children's teachers. The fact that they are feeling the pressure to practice these tests is a commentary on what these tests are creating for our teachers and our public education system.

Thank you to the current legislators in Salem who are taking a closer look at these tests. I implore you to support these bills.

Sincerely,

Marcy Huss