



March 30, 2015

Chair Margaret Doherty
House Committee on Education
State Capitol Building
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Doherty and Members of the Committee,

Chalkboard Project's vision is to help lift Oregon's K-12 schools to be among the top ten in the nation as measured by student achievement and educational equity. Focusing on educational equity requires that we work toward ensuring that all Oregon students have equitable opportunity and access to educational attainment. Currently, this is not the case for too many of Oregon's English language learners (ELLs).

Chalkboard urges your support of HB 3499, a comprehensive and inclusive approach to improve outcomes for ELL students by increasing transparency, consistency, accountability and urgency. The bill addresses a range of measures that together will have a significant impact on the quality of education provided to the fastest growing student population in Oregon. From requiring uniform budget coding and annual reporting to providing targeted technical assistance to the lowest performing districts, HB 3499 represents the hard work of a wide coalition of stakeholders committed to improving education in Oregon.

This bill is a true product of Oregon's educational community working together to improve outcomes for children, and embraces the voices of thousands who have felt marginalized in the past. We urge your support of HB 3499.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sue Hildick".

Sue Hildick
President, Chalkboard Project

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