

**Subject: SB 930 - increased funding for ESD**

Chair Roblan and Members of the Senate Education Committee.

I encourage passage of SB 930, an increase in funding for ESD services.

In the last month, many of Oregon schools have shifted their education programs towards preparing for the Smarter Balance assessment tests. I am hearing horror stories of how some students cannot handle this pressure. To make matters worse, teachers are labeling these students with learning problems as the reason for being defiant, needing ESD assessment. One parent reported that the teacher would not allow her son to return to class unless she medicated him.

Some other parents are choosing home schooling to get their child out of this abusive environment. Not all parents have that luxury and are opting out of the tests, but after the damage is done. Behavior problems are increasing and according to one office cases referred to ESD for evaluation are up at least 25%.

This one-size-fits all education is wrong for educating students successfully. But, until we have better options, we need to provide funds for ESD services to reassure our students they all have potential just as they are. We need our ESD professionals to protect students.

Vote yes on SB 930.

Donna Bleiler  
State Coordinator  
As A Mom, and  
Radical Moms of Oregon