

Subject: SB 957

Dear Chair Roblan, Vice-Chair Knopp, Senators Baertschiger Jr., Beyer, Gelser, Hass, and Kruse,

As leaders of the Parents Coalition Mike and I have been strong supporters of Portland Public Schools and other districts offering the minimum instructional hours to students. Attached is an outline of testimony that was offered to the State Board of Education on October 24, 2014, on behalf of the Coalition, describing the negative impact PPS's failure to provide students with a full school day and failure to meet state minimums had on students across Portland. I urge you to consider this as you debate SB 957.

Eliminating a requirement that school districts provide a minimum amount of instruction will only make it easier for districts to cut student access to education as a cost-saving measure. This has been the first step on a slippery slope of denying students what education leaders have already deemed a bare minimum, which is among the lowest in the nation, in a state that currently ranks toward the bottom for achievement. Students are the most vulnerable players in this equation; please protect them from a measure that could allow the adults involved to balance budgets by reducing the amount of classroom time for students.

Thank you,

Lisa Zuniga, parent of three children in PPS

Mike Rosen, parent and Portland School Board candidate Zone 7