

House Committee On Revenue

April 15, 2015

Chair Representative Barnhart, and Members of the Committee,

My testimony is in opposition to HB 2158.

Since Oregon's graduation rate was 68% in 2011 and remains above 65%, this law would have no effect until it drops to 65%. Rob Saxton projects a 20-30% reduction in grades due to common core implementation. This may not have an immediate affect, but as he has stated, things may get worse before they get better.

If the high school graduation rate falls to 65%, new tax brackets are created with increases from 0.3% to 1.1% for incomes greater than \$250,000. But, in order to again reduce the tax rate the high school graduation rate has to rise to at least 90%. So, it's a long term tax increase and you would think the added taxes would go to classrooms to help increase the graduation rate. But, no. The taxes fund the School Improvement Fund providing grants to specific schools for programs meeting the criteria.

But, the real failure of this idea is that tax increases are not coordinated with the economy where taxpayers can absorb the increased tax rate. The tax rate adjustment is only determined at the end of the biennium not allowing for any immediate relief in a down economy. The timing for changes doesn't leave time for planning and stability for businesses to operate on a sustainable basis since this doesn't take into consideration the economy.

We need to do better for our schools with a consistent source of funding to maintain high graduation rates and not a roller-coaster funding source.

This plan is bad for Oregon's business friendly goals nor for a stable school program. Please vote no on HB 2158.

Donna Bleiler  
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As A Mom, and  
Radical Moms of Oregon