

**Testimony for the Senate Committee on Education
Informational Meeting
Oregon Education Investment Board Work Group and Future Discussions
June 9, 2015**

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Good afternoon Mr. Chair, members of the Committee, I'm Betty Reynolds, Vice President for Legislation, Oregon PTA.

First, commendations to Senator Roblan for the time and care in assuring that multiple stakeholders were represented in the Work Group, and to Gretchen Engbring for her excellent staff work. Oregon PTA supports the recommendations of the Work Group, featuring an Agency and Chief Education Officer in a convening and facilitating role in a P-20 educational system.

For the future of the Agency, some of the items we'd like to see are

- Focus on transitions, including kindergarten readiness; and k-12 to post-secondary transitions, including AP opportunities, and portability/transferability from community college to the university system
- Clarification of organizational roles, with maximum autonomy for the Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction, where necessary to assure that all students achieve.
- Outcome measures that are meaningful, and don't duplicate information that is already provided by School Districts to the state;
- In recognition of tremendous diversity in Oregon's 197 School Districts, a maximum of local flexibility in education solutions
- Continued attention to student data privacy in development of a longitudinal database, including care in personal identifiers, and assurance that data is for educational purposes, is not duplicative and is retained only for the purpose and period required. (Thank you Committee members for your leadership on SB 187A.)
- I believe that part of the impetus for creation of the OEIB and 40-40-20 goals was compliance with the No Child Left Behind Act. With good potential now for ESEA reauthorization, I'm hopeful that Oregon is at the forefront of efforts to resolve curriculum and assessment issues.

This work group has demonstrated the absolute commitment of the education community – agencies, associations, and decision-makers -- to helping all students achieve. Oregon has some disturbing statistics to turn around, like graduation rates and class sizes. From a larger perspective, I hope for continued collaboration in support of public education, and adequate and stable funding for education so that Oregon students can fulfill their promise.

Thank you again for your leadership and support of education.