



Date: June 9, 2015

RE: House Bill 2655

Members of the Senate,

The United States Department of Education made it clear: If you approve HB 2655, a bill that proactively encourages parents to opt out of tests, they will take away \$140 million in Title I funding meant for Oregon's neediest schools and children. Across the state, these funds currently pay for literacy initiatives, they help make full-day kindergarten programs possible, and support other proven strategies to for ensuring low-income kids are on track to success.

If you choose to pass HB 2655, you are violating a black and white federal law that requires states to make sure all kids are assessed so achievement gaps are not hidden.

The quietest voices in Salem are often the children from underserved communities – such as children of color, children living in poverty, and students learning English. These are the children who would be harmed most by HB 2655.

To be clear, a 'yes' vote on this bill hurts students in your district. Here is a sample of how much Title I funding school districts across Oregon currently receive:

ASHLAND SD 005	\$822,925
BEAVERTON SD 48J	\$5,777,527
BEND-LaPINE	\$3,370,055
BETHEL SD 052	\$1,421,762
CANBY SD 086	\$729,206
COOS BAY SD 009	\$1,185,182
CORVALLIS SD 509J	\$1,101,486
DAVID DOUGLAS SD 40	\$4,814,745
EUGENE SD 04J	\$3,931,182
HILLSBORO SD 01J	\$4,058,886
LINCOLN COUNTY SD	\$1,678,043

MCMINNVILLE SD 040	\$1,624,724
MEDFORD SD 549	\$3,542,235
PARKROSE SD 003	\$1,260,659
PORTLAND SD 1J	\$12,517,605
REDMOND SD 02J	\$2,036,581
REYNOLDS SD 007	\$5,424,891
SALEM/KEIZER SD 24J	\$14,288,362
SOUTH LANE SD 45J	\$679,010
SPRINGFIELD SD 019	\$3,137,392
WOODBURN SD 103	\$2,628,102
YAMHILL-CARLTON SD 001	\$97,654

Standardized tests provide us with the only consistent and comparable information to track progress toward the standards that set students up for success after high school. HB 2655 encourages widespread opting out from standardized tests, and inhibits us from identifying and closing achievement gaps.

We should be having an open conversation about standardized testing in Oregon, including how much time children spend taking tests. However, widespread opt out is not the answer, and it would significantly hurt children from disadvantaged communities.

No matter how you feel about testing, passing HB 2655 will likely tie up \$140 million in Title I funds (and up to \$325 million overall) per year and hurt our neediest kids.

Stand for Children Oregon strongly urges you to vote 'no' on HB 2655.