

# Kimberley Mosier

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Joint Committee on Student Success  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Senators and Representatives,

I am writing to express my thoughts and concerns regarding the implementation of Oregon's Ballot Measure 98 (Oregon State Funding for Dropout Prevention and College Readiness). First and foremost, I am a parent of children in public schools, fifth and second grades. I write to you from the perspective of a parent and a citizen. But I am also an instructor at our local community college (BMCC), a member of the school district facilities committee and the city budget board. I am a former mayor of Baker City, was once a local prosecutor and an Assistant Attorney General. I'm in support of career and technical education (CTE) and am proud to live within a school district that has embraced this type of hands-on education.

I am concerned that the implementation of this measure will not further the goals suggested by its title. If not done carefully, the implementation of Measure 98 could have the effect of exacerbating the problems that lead to high dropout rates.

If not properly funded, the requirement that districts spend \$800 (or even \$400) per high school student to "establish and expand" career education will require that those dollars come from within the district's existing budget. This will mean cuts in programming in other areas of the school district, particularly programs for kindergarten through eighth grade. Research points to *investment* in those programs<sup>1</sup> (and investment in pre-kindergarten programs<sup>2</sup>), to reduce dropout rates. Taking funding from those programs arguably creates the problem the measure is purporting to address.

As you know, the Baker 5J school district has been an innovative leader when it comes to CTE, STEM and hands-on learning at the secondary level. Baker 5J has invested in the Baker Technical Institute (BTI), where high school students can engage in a variety of career-ready

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<sup>1</sup> Small Classes in the Early Grades, Academic Achievement, and Graduating from High School, by Finn, Jeremy D., Gerber, Susan B., Boyd-Zaharias, Jayne; Journal of Educational Psychology, Vol 97(2), May 2005, 214-223  
<https://www.apa.org/pubs/journals/releases/edu-972214.pdf>

Using Early-Warning Data to Improve Graduation Rates: Closing Cracks in the Education System, by Lyndsay Pinkus; Alliance for Excellent Education, Policy Brief (2008)  
<https://hsprograms.pbworks.com/w/file/attach/67009366/Alliance%20Early%20Warning.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Preschool Education and Its Lasting Effects: Research and Policy Implications, by W. Steven Barnett, National Institute for Early Education Research, September 2008  
[http://nepc.colorado.edu/files/PB-Barnett-EARLY-ED\\_FINAL.pdf](http://nepc.colorado.edu/files/PB-Barnett-EARLY-ED_FINAL.pdf)

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courses such as welding, medical and healthcare courses, in addition to gaining real-world experiences through Brownfield study and remediation, 3-D drafting and printing, and heavy equipment training. These programs have been developed through careful community partnerships and aggressive grant-seeking. I fear that by mandating that the 5J district “establish and expand” CTE programming exclusively for grades nine through twelve effectively penalizes the district for being early adopters and innovators in this area.

I make the following suggestions to alleviate the potential negative effects of Measure 98:

1. Ensure that implementation of the Measure is fully funded. Costs of existing programs, including increases in PERS, healthcare and inflationary costs, in *addition to* the cost of the mandated Measure 98 programming must be accounted for in the budget to ensure that the K-8 programs will not be compromised.
2. Allow any funding connected with Measure 98 to be used to invest in programs proven to reduce dropout rates and promote career readiness, regardless of the targeted grade. This would allow a district the flexibility needed to address deficiencies specific to the district.
3. Invest in drop-out prevention through early learning programs, where research shows that our dollars make the most difference.

Thank you for your service to the students and communities of the State of Oregon, and thank you for your consideration of these thoughts. Please don't hesitate to contact me.

Best Regards,

Kim Mosier