

Dear Oregon Legislators,

Thank you for your service to our community and work on the Oregon House Education Committee. I am writing to request your support for House Bill 2419 for the support of the education of Oregon's Talented and Gifted (TAG) children.

Developing the intellectual capital of our young citizens is critical to Oregon's future competitive edge and prosperity. Moreover, I believe that we are a nation where every child should have the chance to achieve to their potential during their formative years and that Oregon should be a state where this is true. As the father of gifted children, I have seen firsthand how they can be demotivated and lose their love for learning in a classroom setting where a large disconnect exists between their ability and what is being taught. I have also witnessed firsthand what a difference a teacher with training and experience in handling of TAG children can make in bringing out their best effort and growth. Historically, Oregon has not been well placed within the nation in its support of the education of TAG children. For a modest investment per child, I believe much improvement will be possible in terms of better identification and access to challenging, supportive learning environments for TAG children *from all backgrounds*. I am always amazed at what our teachers are able to do with their dedication to serve Oregon's children. The financial support provided by House Bill 2419 will enable them to get the training they need to better serve an often misunderstood section through the provision of programs tailored to their needs. As a result, I strongly support House Bill 2419 and ask that you also give it your support.

Thank you for your time to consider how to best develop the character and intellectual potential of Oregon's students.

Faithfully yours,

Scott Clendenning

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