

April 4, 2017

Dear Members of the Senate Education Committee –

In November, Oregon voters approved Measure 98 by a 2 to 1 margin. In doing so, we sent you a strong message that we support meaningful action to improve the state's dismal graduation rate. This measure was crafted based on compelling data that CTE programs, dropout prevention strategies, and AP/dual credit courses keep high school students in school, on track for graduation, and prepared for college or employment.

Each year in Oregon, 10,000 young people fail to graduate. High school dropouts cost all of us money – without the necessary degrees and job training, unemployed citizens seek public assistance and strain health care, human service, and corrections budgets. Measure 98 will help keep students in school. It will help them learn employable skills, graduate on time, and become contributing members of our society and economy.

I adamantly oppose the proposed amendments to Measure 98 including making the three programs optional, stripping accountability provisions, and allowing funds to be spread to middle school. Not only will these amendments dilute proven efforts to improve high school graduation rates, they subvert the will of the voters.

I urge you to leave Measure 98 intact and find a way to work together to craft a stable, adequate budget to fund it.

Sincerely,

Courtney Clements

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Lake Oswego School District Parent

Member of Stand for Children, organizational co-sponsor of Measure 98