

TO: Senate Committee on Education
FROM: Stacy Michaelson, Government Affairs Administrator, Multnomah County Schools
DATE: February 7, 2018
RE: SB 1522

Chair Roblan, Members of the Committee:

For the record, my name is Stacy Michaelson and I am here today on behalf of Multnomah Education Service District as well as Corbett, Centennial, David Douglas, Gresham-Barlow, Parkrose, and Reynolds School Districts. We urge you to move SB 1522 with the -1 amendment.

As we serve a number of students receiving modified diplomas in Multnomah County, we have been very concerned over the potential impact on their ability to receive transitional support services. Though it's an over-used phrase in this building, this bill really is a technical fix – and it is a vital one to allow us to continue best serving some of our most vulnerable students. Additionally, as MESD operates a number of Youth Corrections Education Program (YCEP) and Juvenile Detention Education Program (JDEP) sites, the -1 amendment is very important to us specifically.

These programs ensure that students not only complete their high school educations, but that they are able to move beyond high school prepared to enter the next chapter of their lives. The students served by these programs may represent a relatively small portion of the students in Multnomah County, but the work we do with them is some of our most important. This bill allows us to continue this important work for as long as we can to meet their needs.

Thank you.

