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Public testimony on SB 1530: “Establishes Task Force on Public Education Planning”

Chair Roblan and members of the Senate Committee on Education. My name is Dave Porter. I live in SE Portland.

Oregon does need to do more long term planning for its system of public education, so a “Task Force on Public Education Planning” could be useful. But a task force such as currently proposed in SB 1530 would largely perpetuate the outdated, inequitable, mediocre, and inefficient system that Oregon current has.

Let me suggest changes in both the task force membership and the expectations of what is to be included in the 10-year plan:

(1) Make the task force much more diverse (to reflect current and future students). Reduce the membership numbers of teachers, school boards and educational employees. Make sure at least 40% of the task force represent persons who are “culturally or linguistically diverse” (as used in the “2017 Oregon Educator Equity Report”) including at least 25% who are Hispanics. Include members familiar with future trends in jobs, online education, artificial intelligence, global economics and national security.

(2) Ask the task force to identify the major trends outside of education that will impact education in Oregon over the next ten years and beyond. Tell the task force to consider recommendations (among others): (a) to increase the integration of schools by race and family income of students, (b) to expand dual language immersion programs to all Spanish native students, (c) to expand dual language immersion programs to all English native students who want them and in which languages, (d) to expand online learning opportunities to high school students, (e) to develop paid high school year abroad programs, and (f) to expand high school mentor, apprentice, and internship programs.

Thank you.

Sincerely – Dave Porter



