

February 11th, 2018

Re: Public Testimony Against the Amendment of Senate Bill 1513

My name is Christine Nguyen; I am a graduate student currently studying School Psychology at the University of Washington in hopes of contributing back to the Oregon public school system which shaped me for the full extent of my K-12 academic career. I am opposed to the amendment of Senate Bill 1513, which requires students to “correctly answer at least 60 percent of the questions on a civics test that consists of the 100 questions used for the civics portion of the naturalization test created by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services,” because I do not believe it is in the best interest of *all* students in the Oregon school system.

In the current political climate, such an amendment will only further isolate and alienate immigrant families. My understanding of the purpose behind this bill is to try and ensure that our students are educated in the history and government of this country before they become active, contributing subjects of said country. I say, however, that this is a matter of curriculum, and so it is the responsibility of the school, and not the student, to ensure that students have access to such knowledge. Requiring students to pass such a test before they can receive their high school diploma, implies to them that everything they have contributed for the last four years of their education does not matter unless they can prove that they are worthy of being called a citizen. Though the requirement is not explicitly to be a citizen of the United States, it might as well be with how it is written in this bill, as the requirement to pass the civics portion of the naturalization test for citizenship is also 60%.

The additional requirement of this also test implies that it is the responsibility of schools to ensure that only those qualified to be citizens receive their high school diplomas. Schools need to be clear that their only responsibility is to educate all children residing in the state of Oregon fairly and equally; they are *not* responsible for matters of immigration. I urge you to consider the needs of all students in your decision, and thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Christine Nguyen', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Christine Nguyen