



Kristin Irwin <kristinmichelleirwin@hotmail.com>

Bill 4067 A

Hello,

I am writing out of concern about bill 4067. I have worked as a school psychologist for 13 years with 7 years of early childhood experience.

I am very concerned that if passed house bill 4067 will exacerbate Oregon's disproportionate special education identification of students of color and English Language Learners. There is no evidence that over-identification of students of color and English Language learners for special education services leads to improved outcomes and narrows the achievement gap. I also believe this bill will result in a delay of comprehensive categorical special education evaluations which include multiple assessment measures and consideration of exclusionary factors including cultural and environmental factors while Developmental Delay only requires the use of one norm referenced test without consideration of cultural and linguistic bias.

In addition, I do not think it is best practice to delay comprehensive evaluations. In WA, where developmental delay is extended to age 9, a comprehensive evaluation is often not completed until age 9 even when there are clear indicators of a categorical eligibility such as Autism. I have worked with parents from WA who conveyed they wished conversations about Autism and other eligibilities occurred earlier so they better understood the needs of their child.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my concerns.

Best Regards,

Kristin Irwin

Sent from my iPhone