

TO: Chair Wagner, Vice-chair Thomsen and members of the Senate Education Committee

DATE: February 27, 2019

RE: SB 433

Our organizations are writing in opposition to SB 433 as currently drafted. This piece of legislation is unnecessary and potentially damaging to our ability to measure student success.

SB 433

SB 433 would expand Oregon's current opt-out policy to all statewide standardized assessments. Oregon's current opt-out policy allows parents/caregivers to opt a student out of our statewide summative assessment. Under this bill, parents/caregivers would also be able to opt a student out from the Oregon Kindergarten Assessment. We know that widespread testing opt-outs undermine the credibility of the student achievement and school accountability data gathered, reduce the value of information gained from these assessments, and reduce educators' and the public's knowledge on our students' learning.

For all of our learners, reliable and valid assessments provide us with important information about how well our schools are helping our students achieve academic success. Testing helps us understand which schools are on track and which are falling behind—and not just for kids overall, but especially for disadvantaged groups that have too often been overlooked in the past.

For our youngest learners, the state assessments are one particularly important piece of information to inform early childhood providers, state agencies, and elected officials about whether young children are getting the rich, stimulating early childhood experiences all kids need before entering kindergarten. This information also helps us to effectively advocate for investments in young children and families before kindergarten and ensure these investments are distributed to promote equity. Extensive opt-out partially invalidates the purpose of conducting such assessments at all.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Dana Hepper, Children's Institute  
Whitney Grubbs, Chalkboard Project  
Amanda Manjarrez, Latino Network  
Megan Chuinard, Oregon Business & Industry  
Iris Maria Chavez, Oregon Coalition of Community Charter Schools  
Parasa Chanramy, Stand for Children