

Dear Members of the House Education Committee,

My name is Tibor Bessko. I live in HD 8 in Eugene, Oregon. I worked as a High School Counselor with the 4J SD from 2004-2019. Currently I am working as a Mental Health Therapist with a local non-profit. I am writing in support of SB 1583 which would give state lawmakers the ability to better make decisions regarding testing in our Oregon public schools.

In my time with the 4J SD I witnessed firsthand the impacts of extensive testing upon our students without any clear evidence of its benefits. One of the biggest impacts was the amount of time and resources that testing took away from classroom instruction. I also saw how it directly put more stress upon already stressed-out students. And the worst part is that the test results were not used for any constructive purposes. Instead, they stressed everyone out, cost a lot of money, and they didn't provide information that guided instruction. If anything, they limited instruction.

SB 1583 would provide lawmakers with a way of knowing how many tests schools are being administered in each district, an important data point in determining what, and how many tests, are actually needed, and for what purposes.

Thank you,

Tibor Bessko
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