

Submitter: Ernest Whiteman  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Education  
Measure: HB3068

I am not in support of this bill for a few reasons. I have worked with students in the school environment since 1998 and have observed these things first hand.

First: a child who is 16 years old is usually too young to work in most jobs or even go to college full time. What are they to do for the next few years. We know from our current economic situation, most kids this age are not willing to work, get a drivers license or anything else.

Second: If you look at the work place situation for most jobs that are well paying, there is a wage difference between kids who graduate and kids who get a GED. I have seen this with several former students.

Third: This is just another example of taking the easy way out. Kids that don't want to go to school will find a way they can do it faster or easier, they will do it without thinking of how it will impact their future.

Fourth: Kids leaving school and taking the easy way out will lose some of the ability to socialize, which already happens because of social media. This will make it worse.

There are times when a student being in regular school isn't working, but there are already options for dealing with that situation.

I firmly believe this will cause more problems in the future when our kids can't get a good job or get into a specific college because they only have a GED. It really doesn't matter what we do in Oregon, it is how the rest of the country, higher education systems and the work force will look at a GED and it won't be in a good light.