

February 3, 2025

Oregon Senate Education Committee
900 Court Street NE, Hearing Room B
Salem, Oregon 97301

Re: Senate Bills 933 and 934

Chair Frederick, Vice-Chair Weber, and Members of the Senate Education Committee:

My name is Nicole Quackenbush. I serve as a School Board Director in the Gladstone School District and am also the parent of a child identified as talented and gifted. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to provide my written testimony in support for Senate Bills 933 and 934.

While the state publishes annual reports with detailed data on many focal groups within our student population, students identified as talented and gifted (TAG) are excluded from this data.

Senate Bill 933 would help close this information gap by requiring annual report cards on how districts identify and serve TAG students. As it stands now, it is very challenging for parents – and those like me representing our district – to determine how effective districts are at serving our TAG students. Senate Bill 933 ensures greater accountability for existing TAG programs.

That said, districts cannot have an effective TAG program if students are not being properly identified.

Senate Bill 934 would require districts to accept TAG referrals whenever they are made – whether that be by parents, caregivers, community members or teachers. This would improve fair access to TAG screening for groups often under-identified, such as low-income, English language learners (ELL), and students with disabilities.

Speaking from personal experience, I know that parent referrals for TAG work. My child has a learning disability and, had I not been able to make a parent referral to have him assessed for TAG, he may not have been identified. Senate Bill 934 would allow universal and open referrals in all Oregon schools which, in turn, would lead to more equitable TAG programs across the state.

I give my gratitude to Senator Taylor for sponsoring these bills. Please join me in supporting Senate Bills 933 and 934.

Respectfully,

Nicole Quackenbush
Parent and Gladstone School Board Director