



Children First
for Oregon
Speaking Up for Kids Since 1991

May 18, 2015

RE: HB 2655

Children First for Oregon knows that Oregon's kids need strong voices advocating for them. Children First strives to make long-term, systemic change by advocating for policies that improve the education, economic security, and the health of children. We are working to make Oregon the best place to be a kid.

By supporting HB 2655, Children First is supporting full and equal information to parents. Parents and students can better participate in the educational process when they understand the plan and purpose of student assessments. It is also important for parents and students to understand their rights around these assessments, including the right to opt out. We believe providing this information to parents is a responsible and reasonable way to engage our entire school community in discussions around student assessments. Presently, the policy allowing parents to opt out for religion or disability is applied unevenly across districts. This legislation will allow parents across the state equal knowledge and equal ability to act in their children's best interest.

Oregon must return to reasonable assessments as tools in student evaluation, student support and student success. HB 2655 will allow parents to focus on the value of information for parents and students so they can understand the nature, extent and purpose of testing. We believe Oregon's schools are stronger as parents and students have full information about the purpose and extent of assessments in the school. HB 2655 will help provide parents with the information they need.

Children First for Oregon

From the desk of
Senator Michael Dembrow