

Celia Baculi
386 Rural Avenue SE
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Chair Doherty and members of the Committee,

My name is Celia Baculi and I am the stay-at-home mother of 2 TAG-identified sons, 16 and 13.

My older son just finished Multivariable Calculus and quantum physics at Willamette University, in addition to his full-time load at South Salem High School. I have been THAT parent for much of my son's school career to allow him to find his right math level.

We made a choice a number of years ago that I would not work outside the home while the kids needed me because their learning needs are so different. We part-time homeschooled my older son in 4th, 5th and 6th grade, to give him the instruction he needed. Then we turned around and part-time home schooled the younger one in fifth grade.

My 13-year old attends private school for middle school. We have fired the Salem-Keizer School District over the lack of TAG services and advanced math options.

We have experienced a range of teachers and professionals, from those who "get it" and supported my sons' learning needs, to those who did not understand why they could not be more patient, more mature and wait for their group. Quietly. Day after day.

We have been very fortunate that I can stay home with my kids, and that I have a college degree and can homeschool them where needed.

There are many children like mine. I have seen the posts on social media where parents of gifted kids are thinking of moving to Oregon, and they are told "Don't bother. Oregon has the bare minimum of TAG services and doesn't value TAG".

What you get without TAG services is under-identification, untrained teachers, and demotivated or bratty kids.

We should be growing our own doctors, engineers and bilingual teachers in Oregon. We have a shortage in all these professions and yet we fail to prepare our brightest kids to succeed.

Funding is long overdue for these kids.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today. I would be happy to answer any questions.

Celia Baculi
Salem, Oregon