

Members of the Senate Education Committee-

I am writing in support of SB 433.

Oregon parents, like all parents in the United States, have the right under the 14th Amendment to direct their children's education. Oregon affirmed that right in 2015 by passing HB 2655. This bill further clarifies that right by acknowledging that it applies not only to the Smarter Balanced Assessment but to any statewide standardized assessment that students may be asked to take.

This bill also clarifies that the Oregon Department of Education must provide only factual information on its forms and written notices to parents regarding their rights, and may not editorialize.

This bill is important because the state Department of Education sets the standard for public education officials around the state, including school district officials. Many school district officials have been behaving in what I believe is an unethical manner by providing parents with misleading information about the value and purpose of state assessments. Some have even attempted to subvert the intent of the law by acting to limit the availability of forms to families in order to increase participation in testing.

I believe that if officials are not able to obtain the amount of participation desired by the system that is because the system is not what people want. In order to obtain more participation, the system should be corrected. The answer is not to attempt to mislead people into believing that it is something it's not.

Public officials have the responsibility to provide accurate information to the public. This is why I support SB 433.

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