

Dear House Committee on Education Members,

I am greatly concerned with the bills related to preschool and grade schools that are continuing to affect the quality of education being provided to all students. I live in an agricultural area, Milton Freewater, Oregon. I understand the need to help the Hispanic, Latino, Indian, etc., to be educated. My concern is that there have been so many specific cultural programs being provided that my Irish/German grandchildren were denied preschool because of their race. The family is at the poverty line due to my son being 100% disabled after his 2<sup>nd</sup> tour in Iraq, and all 3 of my grandchildren were told they had to wait and were never afforded the opportunity to attend preschool. Then, when they got into kindergarten they were assessed as behind in reading, math, and language. Within the first few minutes of the first day of kindergarten my granddaughter was told she needed to say hola to her classmates. Seriously, my granddaughter has a speech impediment and a learning disability. She was given an Individualized Assistance Plan (IAP) after we had to go through many school and administrative staff denials, in the Milton Freewater School System and Salem, OR Top School administrators. There continues to be many issues with the quality of curriculum, teacher's lack of problem solving and taking responsibility, and being only focused on getting the students to pass the tests that show how good the instructors are in educating our children.

I will give you an example of how the Milton Freewater, OR School Administration works. At the end of the 2018 school year my granddaughter who has the speech impediment and reading difficulty was getting ready to complete the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. Her reading level was at a second grade level. Her parents and I had great concerns with her ability to advance and keep up with the 4<sup>th</sup> grade curricular requirements. The school administrators told us that we could not hold her back in the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. I do know about the laws and the requirements of the school system in Oregon, as well as the parent's rights. A meeting was arranged to discuss my granddaughter and her education. After this meeting the family decided to allow her to advance to the 4<sup>th</sup> grade with the assurance from the teachers and aids that my granddaughter would continue to be helped with reading and speech so she would not fall behind.

This school year, she has fallen back to 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> grade reading levels, **But** she is receiving A's in reading assignments and book reports. When I asked how this could be a true grade I was told her lessons were modified to her level. **This is how children get though school and cannot read and write.** There are other issues happening in this school district as I am sure in others. I have advocated for improved education for the children who cannot afford to attend private schools and must attend public schools. no one seems to care anymore. I will continue to advocate for my grandchildren to have the opportunity to receive a great education even though they have to attend a (D) graded school system with a superintendent who does nothing to improve the quality of learning for the students.

Let's focus our energy on making sure **all** students are given the same quality education they are entitled to receive in order to be a productive and educated adult who can support a family and pay their taxes.

Thank you for your time and consideration on behalf of my grandchildren and their future education.

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