



Chairs Arnie Roblan and Barbara Smith-Warner and members of the committee

SB 157A – STRONGLY OPPOSE

This bill directs Department of Education to enter into contract with nonprofit entity (Smarter Balance) to administer nationally recognized assessment of high school students.

You allowed for an opt-out to resolve a bad situation teaching to the tests and long drawn out testing, and this is the best you can do? And you wonder why graduation rates are so poor.

Currently, students can opt-out of Smarter Balance testing, and if they are college bound they will take the SAT or ACT for college registration.

ORS 329.485(2)(b) requires Oregon Department of Education directly develop the statewide assessment system in mathematics, science, English, history, geography, economics and civics. Now, to bring the department into compliance, this bill adds (c) requiring the department to contract out their responsibility for math and English. It isn't even an option, which is an underhanded way to force school district to continue with a failing curriculum of Common Core, whom Bill Gates even admits it's a failure.

In 2009 they contracted with Smarter Balance prior to the authority to do so. States are withdrawing from Smarter Balance and PARCC testing compacts. Smarter Balanced is in better shape than PARCC, but are still losing members. Missouri and Maine just dropped out this year. Wisconsin is on the verge of defunding it. North Carolina continues their review process and could be leaving as well. Two states, North Dakota and West Virginia, have lawsuits pending.

The bill started out giving school districts more options for the students that take a national assessment, but the amendment restricts districts to require the statewide assessments by Smarter Balance and no longer allows for an opt-out or alternative testing that meets the student's needs.

This is disappointing and we ask you to give the power back to local school districts and vote no on this bill.

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FAST Legacy