

Members of the Senate Education Committee,

Since its inception, the Smarter Balanced Assessment has been fraught with controversy due to the processes by which it was developed and implemented, the manner in which it has been used to label schools, teachers, and students, the inherent linguistic and cultural biases in the assessment (see <https://www.hoover.org/research/troubling-saga-smarter-balanced-test>) The sheer length of the test is also problematic, due to the disruption it causes in elementary and middle school education, where students must take the assessment every year in spite of the fact that it provides classroom teachers with little to no actionable data. The test is also incredibly stressful and anxiety inducing for many students. For all these reasons, many parents choose not to have their children take this assessment.

While I believe it is a parent's right to direct their child's education under the 14th Amendment to the US Constitution, Oregon's Student Bill of Rights has allowed parents to opt their children out of (some) state testing easily, without having to face the bullying and intimidation tactics that were being practiced in some school districts to coerce parents who did not wish for their children to participate in the testing prior to the passage of that law. For this reason alone, this law should not sunset.

Please pass SB 602 to protect parent and student rights.