

Submitter: COLLEEN HUNTER
On Behalf Of: HB 4124
Committee: House Committee On Education
Measure: HB4124

Dear Members of the Committee,

As a 38-year veteran public school teacher retiree, I would like to offer my statement in support of House Bill 4124. The progressively intrusive onslaught of assessment on teaching and learning over the last 15 years of my time in the classroom, eventually sucked the life and joy out of it so much of it, that I was forced to leave the profession which I had loved. for so long. The narrowing of curriculum that I was formerly able to teach in an integrated, cooperative, meaningful and powerful manner increased exponentially with the addition of assessments mandated by Oregon and the districts. School days became overtaken by pretty exclusively by math and language arts (mostly reading) instruction. Science, social studies, health, exposure and use of literature in reading instruction, creative writing and thinking skills development, peer teaching and learning, are just a few of the massive losses to the process. I could no longer ethically be party to what was happening to my and other students in our state's public education system. I turned my efforts to being a advocate and activist as an active member of the Community Alliance for Public Education. I strongly urge your support of HB 4124 for the students, families and teachers of Oregon's public schools. I appreciate the opportunity to give my input on this important topic which effects so many in our state and I greatly value your work on our behalf.