

February 3, 2022

To: House Education Committee

RE: Support for HB 4124

Dear Chair Alonso Leon, Vice-Chairs Neron and Weber and members of the House Education Committee---

My name is Sara Schmitt and I am an educator in Beaverton and sharing testimony today in support of House Bill 4124. I have been an educator for 17 years and I proudly represent over 2,500 licensed educators as the president of the Beaverton Education Association.

As we educate our students through and beyond the pandemic, our state is rightly focused on providing the best learning environments for students.

However, our current system of assessment gives us a narrow measurement of student progress, and at one snapshot in time, which doesn't account for the full picture of student learning potential. The data that teachers gather during our daily work with students gives us much more timely, informative and accurate information about how to support academic growth.

As a classroom teacher, my students missed out on hours of important instructional time when they took standardized tests. Some school leaders hyper-focus on test scores and pressure educators to focus on raising test scores at the expense of improving well-rounded student-centered learning opportunities. Alternatively, leaders who are working to provide more equitable access to things like Advance Placement (AP) classes are intentionally not looking at standardized test scores because they are not a reliable indicator of a student's performance and potential.

As we build the future we desire, where students and educators co-create goals for learning and achieving benchmarks for success, we must ensure that assessments support that relationship and don't impede instructional time. It's time to review our current assessment practices, to identify measurements that align with Oregon's educational goals, inform instructional practices, and improve the educational experience of our students.

That is why I support HB 4214 and ask the committee to pass this bill.

Thank you for your time.

Sara Schmitt