

Dear Members of the House Education Committee,

My name is Tibor Bessko. I live in HD 8 in Eugene, Oregon. I worked as a High School Counselor with the 4J SD from 2004-2019. Currently I am working as a Mental Health Therapist with a local non-profit. I am writing in support of HB 4124 which would give state lawmakers the ability to better make decisions regarding testing in our Oregon public schools.

In my time with the 4J SD I witnessed firsthand the impacts of extensive testing without clear had upon our students. One of the biggest impacts was the amount of time and resources that it took away from classroom instruction. I also saw how it directly put more stress upon already stressed-out students. And the truth of the matter, I don't think anybody did anything with the results of those tests other than to tell the district leadership and the state that the tests were complete. Honestly, the tests stressed everyone out, costs a lot of money, and didn't actually provide information that guided instruction. If anything, it limited instruction.

HB 4124 would provide lawmakers with a way of knowing how many tests schools are being administered in each district, an important data point in determining what, and how many tests, are actually needed, and for what purposes.

Thank you, Tibor Bessko
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