

Submitter: David Meier

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Education

Measure: HB3068

I dropped out of school in eleventh grade because I had a very bad home life and was bullied constantly in school. I immediately began working full-time at a fast-food restaurant but was also contacted by a social worker who convinced me to at least get my GED. A few year latter I decided to join the military, however, only the National Guard would accept me because I didn't have a High School Diploma. I joined the Guard, did my basic and AIT training and then came back home and served one weekend a month/two weeks in summer as a Combat Medic with a unit stationed at the Tigard Armory. Upon returning home from training, I enrolled at a different Oregon High School and was a 20 year old senior. I did this so that I could get my High School diploma and go active Army. If I had been able to alternatively earn a High School diploma instead of a GED, I could have gone straight in the active Army. Today I am 30 years older and have earned a Master's of Science degree in Applied Psychology. I know I am not stupid. My family situation and complete lack of confidence as a child made traditional High School a living nightmare for me. I worked full-time at 16 years of age. I know I am not lazy. Traditional High School was not a good fit for me and my circumstance as a child. I am obviously in support of this measure to help the current 16 year old me out there today.