

Submitter: Clare Lanusse
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure: SB736

Dear Chair Dembrow, Vice-Chair Weber, and members of the Senate Education Committee,

My name is Clare Lanusse and I am a parent to three Oregon students in grades 4, 8, and 11 who have all been identified as Talented and Gifted (or "TAG"). I was also identified as highly gifted when I was a K-12 student. I am writing in support of SB 736. For the sake of transparency, I am a Legislative Assistant for Senator Dembrow. However, my written testimony is from my own lived experience and is not a reflection of my employer or employment.

Not to be confused with placeholder language, SB 736 is actually a study and one that I urge you to support!

I support the need for an initial study into how to increase access to advanced instruction in public schools in Oregon. A variety of opportunities exist within my local school district, but it is not consistent from school to school, at elementary, middle or high school. My family recently discovered these inconsistencies as we compared two high schools for our 8th grader, and I was confused and dismayed at how advanced courses offered at two high schools in the same district could be so different. I also felt disheartened thinking about how most families do not have options outside of their neighborhood school, meaning luck is required for a student to live in the best neighborhood or district for them. Outside of luck, resources like time, money, and knowledge are needed to understand which school or district would best serve your child. When there are multiple school options, such as in the district we live in, transfers are quite limited. Even if a transfer is approved, this introduces another set of challenges in separating students from their local communities and burdening families with logistic and transportation challenges. The study directed in SB 736 is a start to help identify where advanced instruction exists and where it is needed in Oregon. Please vote yes on SB 736.