



123 NE 3rd Ave.  
Suite 208  
Portland, OR 97232

[betteroregon.org](http://betteroregon.org)



Feb. 8, 2024

Chair Michael Dembrow  
Vice-Chair Suzanne Weber  
Members of the Senate Education Committee

**RE: Support for Evaluating Oregon's Quality Education Model (SB 1552)**

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

On behalf of Foundations for a Better Oregon (FBO), I am writing to support SB 1552's charge to evaluate Oregon's Quality Education Model (QEM), and respectfully encourage the committee to ensure that community, education advocates and key stakeholders are included throughout the process.

FBO is a collaborative effort of Oregon philanthropy whose mission is to ensure Oregon has systems in place to support every child to learn, grow, and thrive. We believe that the Quality Education Model, which aims to calculate the cost of providing a high-quality education to all students in Oregon, is overdue for modernizing. The model itself is based on outdated and contradictory assumptions. Further, the Quality Education Commission (QEC), a body of volunteer education experts, is currently understaffed, lacks transparency, and makes decisions largely without public input. This has caused significant confusion about the purpose and scope of the QEM, as well as an erosion of public trust in its efficacy and value.

**In order to set a new course, the QEM study must include opportunities for Oregon communities, advocates and stakeholders to contribute local context, data and experiences to the study, as well as to shape any resulting recommendations that will guide the QEM modernization going forward.** We believe that transparency and inclusive processes are critical to maintaining and growing strong public support and investment in our education system.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Whitney Grubbs'.

Whitney Grubbs  
Executive Director  
Foundations for a Better Oregon