

Submitter: Kathy Jones  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Education  
Measure: SB1550

I oppose this bill because it sets up another road block and bureaucracy to stop parents and local communities from making decisions regarding our own children.

We need less control by centralized government, not more. We've seen the problems caused by Kate Brown's bill SB744. If SB1550 is passed then our hands will be tied as power is transferred to the DOE. Citizens will be unable to help shape the curriculum for our children because the DOE will dictate requirements. We will be forced to accept continually declining standards focusing on equity instead of equality. Removing individuality and identifying children by ethnicity, skin color, sexual preference, etc. Have they forgotten that everybody is an individual? Martin Luther King expressed this perfectly, "I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character". Today the exact opposite is happening.

We need to focus on the basics like: reading, writing, math, actual history, actual science, personal finance, physical fitness and healthy living. We need to get back to the basics. Embrace mediocrity and challenge students according to each child's ability rather than simplifying the curriculum to meet the lowest common denominator so state metrics can be met. Students who need extra attention should be given it and should be challenged accordingly. Students who excel also need to be challenged.

Our children need to be taught the skills to cope in today's complicated world. They need real life expectations of hard work rewarded with success. They need to understand the value of money and their responsibility to contribute to society in meaningful ways.

45% of my property taxes fund education. By far the biggest chunk of my property taxes. Stop asking for more money. Figure out how to work within a budget, and remove waste.