

Testimony from Christine Tebben
Regarding House Education Committee hearing on HB 2009 / SB 141
March 11, 2025

Dear Chair Alonso Leon,

My name is Christine Tebben, and I am a consultant who has worked on education issues in Oregon and nationally for the past twenty years. I'm testifying in support of HB2009 because I believe in the importance of ensuring that districts are accountable to students and their families – particularly the students of color who are at the center of the Student Success Act's commitments.

Oregon's worsening education outcomes are unacceptable. It is especially disappointing when viewed against the significant targeted investments Oregon made by adopting the Student Success Act. Those investments are critical – but they are not sufficient. They are just one component of a larger strategic approach that is laser focused on tracking student outcomes and engaging in a continuous improvement cycle to adopt instructional strategies that are gaining the most traction for student success.

HB 2009 is an important step toward continuing to fulfill the commitments of the Student Success Act to promote the success of students of color, students with disabilities, and those from other communities that have been historically underserved. Parents and community members are urgently calling for more focus on how funds are spent to ensure it is to the benefit of their children. Districts need support and accountability to ensure that they are focusing on strategies that will meaningfully improve learning and student success. We need an accountability system that is focused on support and intervention rather than the cudgel of kneejerk compliance systems.

I hope that you will support HB 2009 and help deliver on the promise of the Student Success Act.