

Submitter: Sarah Kester

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB302

My name is Sarah Kester, and I am writing today in strong support of Senate Bill 302, which directs the Oregon Department of Education to study the adequacy of public education for students in kindergarten through grade 12.

As a parent and community member, I know firsthand the vital role that a strong and equitable public education system plays in the success of our children and the future of our state. Yet, across Oregon, we continue to see persistent disparities in student outcomes, access to resources, and overall school quality—disparities that disproportionately impact students from rural communities, low-income families, and communities of color.

SB 302 is a critical step forward. By conducting a thorough and thoughtful assessment of our K-12 education system, this bill will provide lawmakers, educators, and communities with the data and insight we need to understand where gaps exist and how we can most effectively address them. This is not just about identifying what's broken—it's about illuminating what's working, sharing best practices, and building a stronger, more equitable system for all students.

I especially appreciate that SB 302 sets a clear timeline and reporting requirement to ensure transparency and follow-through. The findings from this study will be an invaluable resource for future legislation and budgeting decisions, allowing us to target investments where they are most needed and ensure every student, regardless of zip code, has access to a high-quality education.

I urge you to support SB 302 and ensure it moves forward with the attention and urgency it deserves. Thank you for your leadership and for your commitment to Oregon's children.

Respectfully,

Sarah Kester

Keizer, Oregon