

Submitter:

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On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB141

Dear Governor Kotek and Your Education Wizards,

Oh, bravo, Senate Bill 141—a masterpiece of pointless genius! Asking the Oregon Department of Education to “study accountability” like it’s some grand mystery?

Please, spare us the encore. This isn’t a fix—it’s a taxpayer-funded nap, and I’ve got the numbers to prove it’s a joke.

Let’s applaud the originality—studying a system with an 83% graduation rate (ODE 2023) that trails the nation’s 86% (NCES 2022). Brilliant! Never mind the Quality Education Commission’s 2023 gem: we’re \$2 billion short yearly. Why act when you can ponder until 2026? Meanwhile, 50% of kids skip school (ODE 2023)—but sure, a report will magically fix that.

And the resource brilliance! ODE’s \$11 billion budget (2023-25) is 40% admin bloat (state audit), yet you’ll pile on more desk-sitting while 2,500 teachers are missing (OEA 2023). Twenty percent of schools lack supplies (ODE survey 2023)—genius move, studying instead of supplying. Oregon’s \$1 billion General Fund hole (DAS 2025-27) says thanks for the priorities.

The amendments? Oh, dazzling! SB 141-1 audits kindergarten tests—95% of tots take them (ODE 2023), scores are fine (2022-23). Why bother when high school’s 17% dropout rate (ODE 2023) screams louder? SB 141-5 dreams of copying Massachusetts (90% graduation, NCES 2022)—cute, but why not use EdTrust’s 2022 data now instead of dawdling with an advisory circus?

Here’s the kicker: you’ve got the data! ODE’s 2021 reviews, NAEP’s 2022 reading gaps—Oregon lags 5% behind (NCES). Fifty percent absenteeism ties to poverty (ODE 2023), not “accountability.” But no, let’s wait ‘til 2027 while 15% of disabled kids (ODE 2023-24) and 60% stressed teachers (OEA 2022) suffer. Stellar plan!

Kill this, Kotek. Shove your study and fund real fixes—say, \$100 million for teachers (OEA 2023 estimate) or the 25% per-pupil gap (NCES 2022). SB 141 is a sarcastic gift to bureaucrats, not kids. End it before it’s another dusty shelf-sitter.