

April 7, 2025

SB 141: Support with Urgent Call for Rigorous Implementation & Instructional Excellence

Dear Chair Frederick, Vice-Chair Weber, and Members of the Senate Education Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **support of SB 141**. I come to you as an Oregonian raised in Coos Bay, a mother of four Portland public school students, and a national leader in school accountability.

As both a student and parent, I've seen firsthand how school quality is too often determined by a child's ZIP code, and their teacher quality is left to chance. SB 141 offers a long-overdue framework for clarifying expectations around school performance and growth. But let's be honest: this should have happened years ago. My COVID-kindergartener will be in 10th grade by the time this system is fully operational. With Oregon's slow pace of reform, we cannot afford further delay. **Pass the bill—and immediately turn our focus to bold, effective implementation.**

The most urgent work ahead is centered on instruction. Without a clear statewide vision for excellent teaching, the coaching required under this bill risks [becoming another compliance exercise](#). The legislation must drive real instructional change—not just bureaucratic activity.

With deep respect, I raise the following critical questions:

- Will coaches be anchored in [research-based instructional practice](#)?
- Why are Student Success Teams focused on operations and governance when the core driver of student success is effective teaching?
- How will the state ensure this system doesn't devolve into shallow reviews instead of high-impact instructional work?

We must also acknowledge Oregon's growing "honesty gap." If most schools are deemed "on track" under this system while Oregon ranks 50th in the nation on NAEP, then something doesn't add up. Accountability must reflect reality. Anything less betrays the students and families we claim to serve.

To address these gaps, I urge the Legislature to charge the State Board of Education with strong, transparent oversight of SB 141's implementation. The Board must be responsible for ensuring fidelity to the bill's intent, rooting all support in instructional improvement, and reporting clearly to the public on what's working—and what's not.

I support SB 141. But I do so knowing that laws don't transform schools—leadership does. That leadership must be grounded in instructional excellence, honest measurement, and the belief that every student in Oregon is worthy of achieving academic excellence —no matter their background.

Thank you for your service and your commitment to Oregon's children.

Sincerely,

Dr. Christine Toribio Pitts

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Christine', written in a cursive style.

Mother of Four Children in Portland, Oregon