

April 7, 2025

Michael Selvaggio
1790 Fifth Avenue
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To The House Committee on Education

Re: Support of House Bill 2009-4

Madam Chair, members of the Committee:

For the record, my name is Michael Selvaggio. I am a working parent to two wonderful kids, the oldest of which will be entering Oregon's public K-12 system this fall. I am in support of House Bill 2009 with the dash-4 amendments.

First, I would like to thank the Governor's office and House leadership for bringing this bill forward. Despite the increase in nominal K-12 dollars over the past few years, the Governor's proposed K-12 budget represents a much-needed increase in buying power per student and can, with the performance metrics described in Section 3, give our districts both the resources and guidance needed to set students up for future success. It is right that this kind of accountability is accompanied by increases in targeted funding, such as additional investments in special education.

It is not my intention to re-state my colleagues' support for this measure, but there are a few items I would like to put on record to underscore that support.

First, that while there is significant opportunity for improvement in academic performance — particularly with regard to state-to-state results — I hope that this measure is seen as an opportunity to build upon what Oregon has been doing well, rather than a penalizing measure. In the school district in which I reside, in a budget-constrained environment, our 9th grade "on track" data is not only improving for all students but improving across multiple cohorts such as students with disabilities and English learners. This accountability framework, combined with sufficient resources, helps build on that success and further improve outcomes.

Secondly, while it is not easy to weave such metrics into this kind of framework, I would note that we should not take our focus off of the ultimate objective of setting students up for future economic success. As the Department begins fleshing out these metric targets, we should be mindful that while 8th and 9th grade metrics serve as good indicators, they are just that; a stellar test result is no substitute for a well-compensated family-wage job with benefits. We've seen graduation rates increase along with the expansion of the High School Success program, which does not always fit neatly into performance metrics based wholly on quantitative academic data.

Our own local Riverside High School has been implementing amazing career-readiness programs — I hope that my own children will be able to take part in that.

Thank you again to the committee, to leadership, and to the Governor for this package combining resources and accountability. As a constituent, as a taxpayer, and as a dad, I urge you to pass it.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mif Selvaggio". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Michael Selvaggio