

Date: April 7, 2025
From: Jill Vogt
Subject: Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 141

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

For the record, my name is Jill Vogt. I bring over 20 years of experience in public education, including five years implementing early literacy and math programs with state education agencies and school districts nationwide. Since returning to my home state of Oregon, I've spent the past 15 years working closely with local school districts, education service districts (ESDs), and the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) to advance student achievement. I am also on the Board of Camp Yakety Yak, a nonprofit serving youth experiencing disabilities in the greater Portland area. As a lifelong Oregonian, I am deeply committed to the success of all students and to the power of public education to expand opportunity and strengthen the future of our state.

I am writing today in strong support of Senate Bill 141.

SB 141 is a critical and urgently needed step to strengthen accountability and create the conditions for meaningful improvements in educational outcomes across Oregon. Key provisions of the bill and subsequent -3 and -4 amendments include:

- **Establishing a strong set of statewide accountability metrics**—while allowing flexibility for local metrics;
- **Implementing responsive interventions and supports** for districts that do not meet performance targets;
- **Clarifying expectations for interim assessments and data reviews** to monitor progress and guide instructional decisions;
- **Further defining the Oregon Department of Education's commitments** to data transparency, streamlined reporting, and operational improvements;
- **Tightening implementation timelines** for effective execution.

While the passage of this policy is a critical first step, its true impact will be determined by the strength and integrity of its implementation. Oregon's leaders must be willing to take an honest look at our current system, make bold and necessary decisions to shift course, and invest in building the capacity needed to support meaningful change. **At every stage, student learning and a commitment to high expectations for every student must remain at the center.**

To achieve the deep, lasting improvements our students deserve, **ODE must be guided by a clear vision and a strong, evidence-based theory of change—one that places high-quality instruction for every student in every classroom as the top priority.** Only with this foundation can we realize the sustained, equitable growth in student outcomes that this legislation is designed to achieve.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony. I respectfully urge your support for SB 141.

Sincerely,

Jill Vogt