

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

My name is Bruce Kevan. I serve as a member of the LaGrande School Board, but I write to you today in my individual capacity as a retired educator and school principal. As you debate SB 1555 and consider changing how schools should be judged and funded, please consider the following:

- The best decisions are made closest to the action. Who knows best what the successes and challenges a school district has? The staff, families and students do. Please don't move the accountability and funding discussions another level away.
- The best decisions are made when based on quality data. The metrics currently used are not a valid sample. For instance, if students can opt out of the assessments, the resulting data never reflects truth. As you consider the standards for measuring student success, ask the school districts what data they have and can provide and how they measure success locally.
- Funding of schools has struggled to keep up with the cost of a quality education. But, much has been given and rightly much can be expected. At this point if funding does not keep pace and expectations remain or increase, how can the Legislature be considering cuts to education? As you consider funding in conjunction with quality education, please hold the schools harmless and pay for the results you want.

I've seen many new ideas come and go in my time in Oregon's school system. It may be time to revise our statewide educational goals and our current process for determining how much money is needed in the system, but we shouldn't rush that conversation. We should include the perspective of those with experience in the field.

Thank you for your consideration.