



JOHN A. KITZHABER, MD
Governor

April 12, 2011

Oregon Business Association Board
6975 SW Sandburg Street, Suite 250
Tigard, Oregon 97223

Dear Oregon Business Association Board:

Thank you for your letter regarding initiatives to improve the public education system in Oregon and your support of Senate Bill 909, the Oregon Education Investment Board.

I urge you and your members to contact legislators to express your support of the bill and the vision it represents. In addition, there are a number of other bills that are important in our effort to create a more accountable, less bureaucratic system that delivers better outcomes for students across the 0-20 spectrum, more resources for teachers and better return on our education investment. I have appreciated working with you on many of the following bills to address a range of governance, funding and outcomes-based innovations consistent with my education improvement agenda:

Improving Education Governance

Oregon Education Investment Board (SB 909) – Creates an efficient and accountable education funding and governance system that integrates early childhood services, K-12 and post-secondary education and training.

Increased Autonomy for Universities (SB 242) – Shifts the Oregon University System from its current status as a “state agency” to a “public university system,” removing restrictive administrative barriers, ensuring that tuition dollars and interest are reinvested back in universities, and encouraging innovation in how we provide higher education to students in Oregon.

Appointed Superintendent (SB 552) – Makes the position of Superintendent of Public Instruction appointed, and enables more accountability for performance across the 0-20 continuum.

Education Funding and Cost Savings

Education Service District (ESD) Efficiency (SB 250/HB 2298) – Allow school districts to withdraw from Education Service Districts, creating opportunities to streamline the way districts purchase services.

Promoting Outcomes-based Education

Full-Day Kindergarten (SB 248) – Requires school districts to provide full-day kindergarten programs and provides the resources (including technical expertise) that those school districts may require.

Teacher and Administrator Effectiveness (SB 252/SB 290/HB 3473) – Promote professional development and adoption of uniform set of standards for educators and administrators, and expands collaborative teacher reforms.

Promote Proficiency Practices (HB 2220) – Ensure that assessments measure student progress based on students' proficiency in knowledge and skills.

Online Learning Options (SB 927) – Increase the availability of high-quality online educational options for students.

I look forward to working with your members and other Oregonians in supporting the passage of this package. I believe these legislative proposals will set us on a path toward an education system for the 21st century. You can find more information about the legislative proposals at: <http://governor.oregon.gov/Gov/priorities/education.shtml>

Sincerely,



John A. Kitzhaber, M.D.
Governor

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