



## Rep. Susan McLain, District 29

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### PRESS RELEASE

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#### **Oregon House Passes Common-Sense Bill on Assessments**

*House Bill 2680 will convene a work group on standardized testing*

SALEM – Today Rep. Susan McLain (D-Forest Grove) carried House Bill 2680 on the House floor. The bill will put a moratorium on the use of the results of the Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBAC) from the 2014-2015 school year to rate schools or evaluate teachers. It will also convene a work group to examine Oregon's system of assessments and make recommendations for improvement based in part on the SBAC results.

"We need to help folks understand how to utilize testing and assessment when we have it, and to be able to do that, we have to understand it," said Representative McLain. "This is a transitional moratorium so that we can look at the test, we can look at the results, and we can make sure that we can do our very best job with assessment in the state of Oregon."

During the floor debate on the bill, it was pointed out that HB 2680 will strengthen accountability.

"I want us to remember what this bill is not. It is not stopping accountability, it is actually stepping up the accountability," Representative McLain explained on the floor. "We are going to make sure that as we look this year at a moratorium on using the results of the test, that we get to review those results so that we can see where the learning gaps are. This will enable teachers in the classroom to do the job they know how to do."

The moratorium will last one year, to cover the test results from the 2014-2015 school year. The work group will be instructed to issue findings and make recommendations for legislation to the State Board of Education and to the Legislative Assembly during the interim.

The bill passed the Oregon House by a vote of 48-9, and now moves to the Senate for consideration.

Below is a link to the House Education Committee where the bill had a public hearing on February 9:

<https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2015R1/Committees/HED/2015-02-09-13-00/Agenda>

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