

## SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

March 06, 2001 Hearing Room B  
3:00 p.m. Tapes 34 - 39

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Sen. Charles Starr, Chair  
Sen. Susan Castillo, Vice-Chair  
Sen. Ryan Deckert  
Sen. Ted Ferrioli  
Sen. Bill Fisher  
Sen. Avel Gordly

**MEMBER EXCUSED:** Sen. Tom Hartung

**STAFF PRESENT:** Jan McComb, Committee Administrator  
Jennifer Simmons, Committee Assistant

**MEASURE/ISSUES HEARD:** SB 592 – Public Hearing

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These minutes are in compliance with Senate and House Rules. Only text enclosed in quotation marks reports a speaker's exact words. For complete contents, please refer to the tapes.

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<u>TAPE/#</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Comments</u>
<b>TAPE 34, A</b>		
002	Chair Starr	Calls the meeting to order at 3:08 p.m. Hands out written material ( <b>EXHIBIT A</b> ). Opens public hearing on SB 592.
<b><u>PUBLIC HEARING – SB 592</u></b>		
019	Stan Bunn	State Superintendent of Instruction. States his opposition to the bill. Explains the Certificate of Initial Mastery and the Certificate of Advanced Mastery. Gives some statistics regarding the educational progress that is currently happening due to the CIM and CAM. Stresses that students that do not achieve the benchmarks are still making excellent progress.
077	Sen. Fisher	Asks how the percentage of students taking the SAT compares with other states.
080	Bunn	Answers that Oregon ranks favorably in the number of students taking the Scholastic Aptitude Test. Says that Oregon is doing very well on test scores. States that Oregon needs to partner with the federal government. Says that they have identified which children are being left behind and now need to follow through with helping them. Says that the best way to help students is to maintain high standards.
283	Sen. Gordly	Asks Bunn to respond to the statement that this bill would adversely affect Portland Public Schools.
375	Bunn	Answers that he agrees with parts of the statement. Says that he does have reservations about testing the very young students.
423	Sen. Fisher	Asks if they could be given copies of the CIM and CAM.
443	Bunn	Answers that all members of the committee will receive copies in late spring.
<b>TAPE 35, A</b>		
005	Sen. Fisher	Says that he has looked at the test and believes it to be too difficult.

022	Bunn	Responds that students are progressing very well on these tests.
035	Sen. Fisher	Says that he does not understand why they can not be provided with the CAM
037	Bunn	Responds that they have been primarily focused implementing the CIM and then bringing together the CAM. Adds that the legislature set the date to release the CAM.
053	Sen. Castillo	Says that she appreciates Bunn explaining to the committee the progress and the challenges of implementing the tests. States that we are achieving positive results even with the challenges.
068	Sen. Deckert	Says that he is excited to possibly have ninety percent of third and fifth graders reaching the benchmarks.
085	Bunn	Explains that we are very much in a position for this to happen.
097	Chair Starr	Asks why we have such low results on the tenth grade math scores.
101	Bunn	Answers that Oregon's high schools need a lot of work. Says that they are not equipped to move students forward the way they should.
126	Chair Starr	Says that the statistics regarding fourth grade reading that were presented differ from the national average.
141	Bunn	Says that he believes his statistics to accurately represent the facts.
154	Rob Kremer	President, Oregon Education Coalition. Testifies in favor of the bill. Says that people are frustrated by the Oregon Education Reform. Submits written material ( <b>EXHIBIT B</b> ). Explains to the committee how the amendments would change the bill. Says that many parents are exempting their children from taking the test because they do not believe it to be a fair reflection of student achievement.
247	Sen. Fisher	Reiterates that this test is too hard.
274	Kremer	Points out that these tests do not measure what they say they measure. Says that the tests do not reflect teacher instruction or value added data. Stresses that we do not have high standards. Says that Oregon has been rated a D+ in high standards.
430	Sen. Gordly	Asks Kremer to explain the opt out situation.
441	Kremer	Answers that this bill would not prevent the state from still performing the test. Says that this test is a good test, it is just not a good test for the data that it is supposed to be testing for.
<b>TAPE 34, B</b>		
011	Sen. Gordly	Asks him to expand on focusing on growth instead of meeting the benchmarks.
019	Kremer	Answers that there is not good data on the growth of students that fall below and above the benchmark.
035	Sen. Gordly	Asks if he believes we need to take a diagnostic approach instead of just handing out a progress report.
039	Kremer	Answers that this test was put in place to hold schools accountable.
045	Sen. Deckert	Asks if Kremer believes the SAT to be a fair test.
049	Kremer	Answers that it is a good test but it is self selected test so it cannot be compare state to state.
060	Sen. Deckert	Asks if at statistically you can still make some observations on how students are doing.
070	Kremer	Answers that you can make some judgements but not many.
074	Sen. Deckert	Asks how Oregon can accomplish such high ratings if the schools are as poor as Kremer has said.

085 Kremer Says that he does not believe that Oregon schools are doing a poor job. Says that he believes the assessments are getting in the way of teachers doing their job.

105 Sen. Castillo Asks how many members are within the Oregon Education Coalition.

109 Kremer Answers that it is not a membership. Says that they combine with other groups depending on what the issues are.

137 Kayanna Warren Student, Aloha High School. Reads from written testimony **(EXHIBIT C)**.

178 Kimberly Nguyen Student, Aloha High School. Says that she is in advanced classes but has certain weaknesses such as public speaking that would result in her not graduating from high school if she failed to pass that particular test.

208 Miguel Salinas Volunteer. Testifies in favor of the bill. Submits written material **(EXHIBIT D)**.

**TAPE 35, B**

002 Sen. Fisher Asks why the writing scores are so much higher than the other subjects.

010 Salinas Answers that he does not know. Says that he is just pointing out the differences between the state testing and Latino testing.

022 Sen. Gordly Asks why there is no data for bilingual students.

034 Salinas Answers that when he asked Teacher Standards and Practices Commission for this data, they were not able to provide it.

054 Sen. Gordly Asks Salinas to embellish on what changes need to be made.

066 Salinas Answers that more questions need to be asked about teacher capacity.

088 Chair Starr Asks what Salinas thinks of making early reading skills a top priority.

112 Salinas Answers that he believes that students should be able to read well by the third grade.

188 Craig Roessler Superintendent, Silver Falls School District. Testifies in opposition to the bill. Says that he supports high standards and frequent measure of student achievement. Says that there is no intent to develop a national test for states to give to students.

250 Sen. Fisher Asks if he expects all Oregon students to stay in Oregon.

254 Roessler Answers that he believes that with our high standards our students are very capable when going to other states.

258 Sen. Fisher Says that when he took tests as a student the teachers did not teach to the test. Expresses concern that we used to have a system that worked and are failing with the system now in progress.

304 Roessler Responds that it is important to them that students are prepared to go into the rest of the world.

306 Evelyn Brazkinski Director of Research Evaluation and Assessment, Portland Public Schools. Testifies in opposition to the bill. Says that with all of the money and time that was spent in developing these tests we should not throw it all out. States that the current system does a good job of laying out what is expected of students and teachers. Says that problems would exist with a norm referenced test too. Says that if you want students to learn what is represented by the content standards, and the assessments are based on the standards, then test practice is not a bad thing. States that 88% of teachers responding agreed that report cards should be standard across the district and match state standards.

Says that we can see annual growth of students with these tests. Says that Portland tests in the off years also with tests based on the state assessments. Submits written material (**EXHIBIT E**).

**TAPE 36,A**

119 Sen. Fisher Asks how children get smarter when the neither the test or the books have been changed.

139 Evelyn Answers that she cannot explain how but that it is a factual statistic.

157 Chair Starr Says that he would appreciate samples of the new report card being used in Portland.

165 Chuck Bennett Confederation of Oregon School Administrators. Says that their stand on this bill is the same as Stan Bunn.

174 Elaine Taylor Superintendent, McMinnville Public Schools. Testifies in opposition of the bill. Reiterates that Oregon is progressing very nicely. Says that it is important to stay the course and let the testing work. Stresses the importance of the tests to teachers developing their teaching plans.

267 Chair Starr Worries that teachers will be blamed for the results.

282 Taylor Says that in every district you will find critics and people who will blame for results.

310 Steve Schopp Says that he is here to represent teachers. States that most teachers that he speaks with consider these assessments a “nightmare”. Submits written testimony (**EXHIBIT F**). Says that if you read the legislation it said that this could not be implemented without funding. States that is not what happened.

**TAPE 37, A**

260 Dave Tragethon Citizen, Clackamas. Reads from written testimony (**EXHIBIT G**).

446 Sen. Fisher Says that in 1995 this school district was one of the most aggressive in the state.

**TAPE 36, B**

003 Tragethon Responds that the entire curriculum is CIM and CAM based.

026 Debbie Tragethon Citizen, Clackamas. States that she is very supportive of her children’s schools. Says that the CIM does not even help with the SAT exam.

112 Tragethon Urges the committee to pass this bill and not provide funding for CAM.

142 Wayne Neuberger Associate Superintendent for Assessment Evaluation. Submits written material (**EXHIBIT H**). Testifies in opposition of the bill.

209 Sen. Castillo Asks if these are valid tests.

215 Neuberger Answers that these tests are as valid as they get.

234 Castillo Asks who reviews the tests.

236 Neuberger Answers that they are reviewed by national testing experts annually.

245 Sen. Fisher Says that it was prior said that we should not follow national standards.

249 Chair Starr Asks if the standard has remained consistent.

257 Neuberger Answers they are confident that they have remained consistent.

277 Sen. Fisher Says that he has not seen an increase in competence of young people newly in the job force.

294 Neuberger Speaks about report cards. Says that when you have multiple assessments within the state it is impossible to compile useful data to be used for accountability. Continues to refer to written

material.

**TAPE 37, B**

021	Chair Starr	Asks what grade level he is experienced in testing.
023	Neuberger	Answers first grade and up.
025	Chair Starr	Asks how he feels about the usefulness of phonics as a teaching tool for reading.
026	Neuberger	Answers that it is one good tool but should not be the only tool used.
031	Chair Starr	Says that the mindset of teachers is that we need a broad, diverse range of tools for teaching children to read. Asks how we get the proper intervention for children who are not reading.
060	Neuberger	Answers that there is research to indicate that giving work that is at an appropriate level for the child will help to progress the student.
083	Chair Starr	Asks if you can place them then you can group them together and teach at the level that they need.
087	Neuberger	Answers that he is correct.
092	Sen. Fisher	Says that if this is the way that students should be taught then we have no justification for the CIM and CAM.
097	Neuberger	Responds that this is a target that can be consistent.
108	Chair Starr	Announces that we will not hear SB 749 today.
131	Jim Thomas	Superintendent, Scio School District. Testifies in favor of the bill. Says that his district is concerned about the cost and implementation of the CIM and CAM. States that almost everything in the original legislation has been modified in some way. Says that his teachers are frustrated with the assessments.
371	Chair Starr	Asks if he believes the drop out rate relates to the fact that there is a different group of students at the tenth grade level.
382	Thomas	Answers that there is a direct relationship with dropping out and not knowing how to read.
392	Sen. Fisher	Asks if he has been able to talk to his superiors regarding this matter.
404	Thomas	Answers that he believes that even if this bill passes both chambers it will not be signed because everyone is too proud to admit that money and time have been wasted.
453	Sen. Fisher	Says that it is okay with him to make mistakes as long as they are admitted to.

**TAPE 38, A**

033	Thomas	Says that accountability is important but the people being held accountable are not the people responsible for the difficulties.
057	Sen. Fisher	Says that the money was wasted and did not go where it needed to. Says that the basics have been taken away.
063	Thomas	States that we need to realize that today's students are different than past students.
070	Sen. Fisher	Says that instead of going after these problems we just keep rolling over.
084	Thomas	Says that there was fear in the fifties that if schools received federal funding that they would take over the schools and that is exactly what happened.
093	Pat Burk	Interim Deputy Superintendent, Portland Public Schools. Reads from written testimony ( <b>EXHIBIT I</b> ).

**TAPE 39, A**

003	Chair Starr	Says that Burk has a lot of experience in schools with the children most likely to not have the tools for good learning. Says
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		that the first investment should be in the programs that work and the last investment should be made in reducing class size. Expresses belief that educators have made real progress in reform but have not addressed those children that are least prepared. Asks why a program such as phonics, that has been proven to be a successful tool, has not been implemented by our schools.
044	Burk	Answers that programs should include a strong phonetic base. Explains how they have done so in Portland schools.
128	Sen. Gordly	Says that Burk has demonstrated why people hold him in such high regard.
192	Sen. Fisher	Asks if Burk is able to Make his god ideas known to the people higher up than him.
198	Burk	Answers that he focuses on his local board and that the people that hold him accountable are the children of his schools.
246	Marietta Edwards	Teacher. Says that as a parent she has withdrawn her child from public school because of the CIM and CAM. Expresses frustration as a teacher. States the many challenges for a teacher dealing with the CIM.
349	Chair Starr	Says that he understands both sides of this issue. Closes public hearing on SB 592. Adjourns the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

Submitted By,

Reviewed By,

Jennifer Simmons,  
Committee Assistant

Jan McComb,  
Committee Administrator

**EXHIBIT SUMMARY**

- A – written material, Sen. Starr, 7 pp**
- B – written material, SB 592, Rob Kremer, 2 pp**
- C – written testimony, SB 592, Kayanna Warren, 1 pp**
- D – written material, SB 592, Miguel Salinas, 4 pp**
- E – written material, SB 592, Evelyn Brazinski, 1 pp**
- F – written testimony, SB 592, Steve Schopp, 21 pp**
- G – written testimony, SB 592, Dave Tragethon, 1 pp**
- H – written testimony, SB 592, Wayne Neuberger, 1 pp**
- I – written testimony, SB 592, Pat Burk, 4 pp**