Dear OEIB:

The appointment of an education CEO who is paid 4 times as much as an elected official is a travesty. I work at a community college where year after year I watch good people lose their jobs and students struggle to stay in school. Your unfunded, mandated achievement compacts look great on paper. However, when my school only has one full time counselor, burgeoning class sizes, and students getting turned away because we can't provide the courses they need, achieving the completion rates you suggest will be nearly impossible. What will happen will be a mass generation of meaningless certificates that will lend the appearance of completion, cost the school thousands of dollars, and in the end signify nothing. To help our students become truly educated, we need more funding that will be directed toward an increase of full time staff, greater support services, and smaller class sizes.

I believe students, parents, and teachers all over the state are longing for you to achieve the following: 1. A repeal of the kicker. 2. A Removal of tax loopholes for large corporations who pay next to nothing in state income tax. 3. An honest examination of the funding structure for education that involves actual educators, as well as community members. These mandates will cost you little. And you just might save a little bit of democracy.

Sincerely,
Susan Mach
Portland, Oregon