

**DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF CLACKAMAS COUNTY**

**Resolution NO. 2019-005**

**Regarding: Opposition to the Use of Standardized Tests as a High School Graduation Requirement**

**WHEREAS** our nation's future and well-being rely on a high-quality public education system that prepares all students for college, careers, citizenship and lifelong learning;

**WHEREAS** students earning a high school diploma increases the opportunity for economic and social well-being;

**WHEREAS** our nation's public-school systems have been spending growing amounts of time, money and energy on high-stakes testing, in which student performance on standardized tests is used to make major decisions affecting individual students;

**WHEREAS** the over-reliance on high-stakes standardized testing in state and federal accountability systems is undermining educational quality and equity in U.S. public schools by hampering educator's efforts to focus on the broad range of learning experiences that promote innovation, creativity, problem solving, collaboration, communication, critical thinking and deep subject-matter knowledge that will allow students to thrive in a democracy and an increasingly global society and economy;

**WHEREAS** it is widely recognized that standardized testing is an inadequate and often unreliable measure of student learning;

**WHEREAS** high stakes standardized testing has negative effects for students from all backgrounds, especially for students from low-income families, English language learners. children of color and those with disabilities; and

**WHEREAS** the culture and structure of the systems in which students learn must change in order to foster engaging school experiences that promote joy in learning, depth of thought and breadth of knowledge for students.

**THEREFORE, THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF CLACKAMAS COUNTY, BE IT RESOLVED;**

**Section 1:** We urge the Oregon Governor, Oregon Legislators and the Oregon Department of Education recognize the negative impact of high stakes standardized tests and therefore, should not be used as a high school graduation requirement.

**Section 2:** We forward this resolution to the Democratic Party of Oregon Platform And Resolution Committee to consider adoption.

