

Legislative testimony on rainy day fund

- Personal Story
 - I am a school parent and resident of Sherwood, Oregon for the past 15 years, I am raising my children here, this is my home.
 - I have been through 2 economic recessions and saw drastic cuts in my kids school each time.
 - I have watched their class sizes increase, class days diminish, and important services like library and computer access cut.
 - I have watched parents fight over funding for sports programs vs academic programs vs music and arts education.
 - I have participated in 2 local option campaigns to raise money for my schools, both of which we lost.
 - I worked to pass measures 66 & 67, regretting that we had to ask for more taxes during hard times, but knowing that cuts would be too severe without this and that we had no choice.
 - Both times, I have been in Salem, talking to my reps about passing a rainy day to end this mess.
 - We all failed our kids last time. Let's not do it again this time.
- A recession causes around a 20-25% drop in revenues. We cannot maintain a healthy school system, with these types of fluctuations.
 - Everybody knows this, the only answer is to save during the good times and keep funding more stable.
 - No other single Education reform issue is as important as this one.
 - If we do nothing else, let us fix this.
- SJR 26 would create a rainy day fund that will strengthen our schools, our families, and our business climate in Oregon.
 - These 3 things are inseparable.
 - It provides a stability fund for k-12 and higher education.
 - It takes from both the kicker and the general fund.
 - Once a specific level is reached the fund is sealed.
 - It can only be used during economic downtimes.
- Closing
 - I am tired of having to fight so hard for something that is just plain common sense. (too strong?)
 - In the bible. God sent a dream to Joseph telling him to save during the good years so that Egypt could survive the famine.
 - Lets save Oregon, lets secure a prosperity that will serve our children and theirs as well.