

Chairs and members of the Committee, thank you for allowing me to speak today. My name is Alisa Blum & I am a member of Stand for Children's Beaverton Chapter. I'm a parent of a 7th grader and an 11th grader in the Beaverton School District. I am also a consultant in the area of workforce development. I am here today to advocate for a stable source of school funding and am thrilled you are looking at various ways to raise revenue.

We need to increase school funding not only because it's the right thing to do for our kids but also because it's the right thing to do for our economy. Over the past few months I have been involved with an advisory group made up of leaders of high tech companies who cannot find enough qualified people in Oregon to fill very high paying positions. It's no surprise to me that our growing tech companies cannot find enough qualified candidates when our school system barely has enough money to provide our kids with the courses to meet their basic educational requirements, and doesn't have nearly enough resources to reduce our horrendous high school drop out rate.

I understand that the purpose of today's session is to explore some long-term solutions to increase revenue. Although this discussion is important, I want to impress upon you the urgency of the needs of our school districts. Here are a few options I'd like to ask you to consider that could provide an immediate increase in school funding:

1. Enact the corporate kicker sooner and direct the money toward public education
2. Refer legislation to the voters ^{to} regarding enacting a sales tax that would be directed toward providing stable school funding
3. Reach across the aisle to consider ^{and other} additional ways to reform PERS as well as ~~tax reform measures that would increase revenue~~ ^{NO}

We need to find solutions that can garner enough support in this building and with votes to pass. The need for our schools and our economy is urgent, and we will support you in making tough decisions to make this happen. Thank you.