

Louise Currin
February 5, 2014
Testimony, HB 4141

HB 4141: Provides that certain property tax exemptions and certain cancellations of property taxes do not apply to property taxes imposed by school districts or education service districts

Testimony:

For the record my name is Louise Currin and I am a retired school secretary for the Portland Public Schools.

As a secretary for Portland Public Schools, I witnessed first hand larger and larger class sizes through recent years. Exempting corporations from property taxes that otherwise would go the schools is hurting Oregon's students. These funds from corporations would certainly go a long way to equitably fund education. It is time that all stakeholders in Oregon share in the support of our schools. Businesses across Oregon need an educated work force in order to survive. If Oregon children do not get the education they need, businesses will not have what they in turn need to succeed - a well trained and educated workforce.

We have all heard the statistics. In 2012, Oregon classrooms had more students than ever before. We had the 3rd largest average class size in the country. Many middle and high school classrooms had 30-35 students, or more! During the 2012 school year we had 500 less teachers than we had in 2000 with more students. And this does not take into account the decrease in valuable support personal that facilitate the education process directly with students, in offices, in maintenance of buildings, with transportation, etc. Even with increases in funding, many school districts around our State were still forced to make cuts, and our kids are feeling the effects every day.

We need to make sure that vital school dollars that belong to the schools aren't being given away and those schools have input on how they are being spent. I urge you to consider what these dollars are worth to the future

generations of Oregonians.

Thank you