

Testimony for House Education Committee  
Darian Crawford-Dietz  
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Good afternoon Chair Doherty and members of the House Education Committee. My name is Darian Crawford-Dietz. I am a seventh grade student at Baker Prairie Middle School in Canby. I might be a little nervous, but I am excited to have the opportunity to address the committee.

Last year I presented testimony to the Education Subcommittee of Ways and Means. I provided a comparison of classes and school activities my mother and uncle experienced, with my own school experiences. Mom and Uncle Doug enjoyed band, PE, Spanish, French, German, living skills, technology, and art classes, as well as after school sports and drama programs. The reason I mentioned all of these is they no longer exist.

At the conclusion of my testimony, Representative Frederick asked me to return next year to provide a one year update. Well, here I am.

The good news is as a seventh grade student, my classmates and I are enjoying the first full school year since we started school. Also, I am in first year band playing the trumpet.

The challenging news at my middle school, however, is students are limited to a choice of only one elective: art or band. The great variety of programs I mentioned earlier have not yet returned to Canby schools. Current students do not have the same experience our parents had attending the same schools. By the way, my band class has 120 students and our art classes have 40 – 50 students each period.

Canby schools have had a strong reputation for many years. Our community has been proud of our schools and the success of our students. But I can tell you we are currently concerned with the future of our schools. We have learned the current education budget being considered by the legislature will result in the loss of at least eight teachers in Canby. If we lose more teachers, we lose more programs and class sizes increase. My classmates are frustrated.

Please know I am not here to complain. We all know times are tough. My classmates and I appreciate the hard work of this committee and all members of the Oregon Legislature. I do hope that by sharing a little bit of my experience with you today that we can be reminded that our schools are not the same as they were for our parents.

Please consider any increase in funding for schools that might be possible. With your good effort my classmates and I can look forward to a brighter future. Thank you.

Chair Doherty, this concludes my testimony. I am happy to answer any questions you may have for me.