



PETER COURTNEY  
President of the Senate

**Joint SubCommittee on Capital Construction**

Representative Tobias Read, Co-Chair

Senator Fred Girod, Co-Chair

Representative Val Hoyle

Representative John Huffman

Speaker Tina Kotek

Representative Greg Smith

President Peter Courtney

Senator Richard Devlin

*TESTIMONY BY SENATOR PETER COURTNEY*

*SUPPORTING SB 5005*

*MAY 1, 2015*

Co-Chair Tobias Read, Co-Chair Fred Girod, members of the Joint SubCommittee on Capital Construction, thank you for hearing my testimony today.

My name is Peter Courtney. I am a State Senator. I live in NE Salem. Testifying in support of Senate Bill 5005.

I'm asking for your support for the Seismic Rehabilitation Grant Program for schools.

We started this program by passing two Senate Joint Resolutions (SJR 21 & 22) in 2001. This led to two ballot measures (15 and 16) which voters okayed in 2002. Since then the program has funded 37 schools with \$34 million appropriated by the legislature.

Interest in the program has reached an all-time high. School districts are engaged. Parents are engaged. Lawmakers are engaged.

Last August I proposed a \$200 million investment in seismic upgrades for schools. I did this on the steps of McKinley Elementary School (100 years old this year!).

Senator Ferrioli is proposing a \$300 million investment in schools (SB 794).

Senator Devlin has a bill for \$125 million investment in schools (SB 447).

The Governor's Budget included a \$100 million investment – for both schools and emergency service facilities.

Clearly there is a need for safe buildings in our school districts.

It has been a long and frustrating road. We have battled bureaucracy (program went from Office of Emergency Management to Business Oregon). We battled the economy (recession).

But we are finally at a point where we can make a real investment in protecting our children.

Thank you, Co-Chair Tobias Read, Co-Chair Fred Girod, members of the Joint SubCommittee on Capital Construction for allowing me to testify.