

Testimony in support of HJR 4

By Betsy Salter, Portland Public Schools Parent

I support HJR 4 to Remove the requirement that the Legislative Assembly publish a report that demonstrates appropriation of money to ensure that state's system of education meets quality goals is sufficient or that identifies reasons for insufficiency.

I do so with the understanding that the language to be removed has been the reason the state supreme court found that the Oregon Legislature was not in violation of the state constitutional requirement to adequately fund our public schools. <http://www.educationjustice.org/states/oregon/>

I have lived in Oregon since 2004 and our daughter was a pre-schooler. Over the past 13 years we have mostly experienced education funding cuts and we have had to supplement our daughter's education with after school art, music, dance and sports. We are fortunate to be able to do so, but all Oregon children should have a rich educational experience in their neighborhood public schools - regardless of parental income or zip code.

According to the Quality Education Model, the Oregon legislature chronically under funds our public schools by about \$2 B/biennium. Oregon has among the largest class sizes, the shortest school year and the least per pupil spending in the nation. That is shameful.

<http://www.statesmanjournal.com/story/news/education/2016/08/24/report-oregon-schools-extremely-behind-funding/89256908/>

It's time for the Oregon Legislature to get serious about fully funding the Quality Education Model. It's time to raise revenue by increasing corporate taxes, letting corporate tax breaks expire and do not adopt any new tax breaks for corporations or the wealthy or create new programs that will compete for state funding until the Quality Education Model is fully funded.

<http://www.taxfairnessoregon.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/Roadshow-Talking-Points.pdf>

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely and respectfully,

Betsy Salter  
Portland, OR