

From: Sunny Petit
To: [LRO](#)
Cc: [Rep Kotek](#); [Sen Frederick](#)
Subject: HB 2830 in support
Date: Monday, June 12, 2017 6:23:55 PM

Dear Co-Chairs Hass and Barnhart and Members of the Joint Committee on Tax Reform,

I am grateful for this hearing on HB 2830. It is heartening to see a bill to increase revenue put forward to address our declining education investment and threats of more cuts to foster, senior, and health care. I also know it is not enough, as the quality education model tells us, but sincerely hope it is a solid start to grow more comprehensive policy. Now is a time we must be bold in our state investments. As a mother of 3 and an Oregon public school graduate myself, I am seeing firsthand the detrimental effects of ballot measures and the more than 25 years of the business community saying they haven't found the right answer to fix funding as they continue to stall efforts. At the same time, I see corporate tax rates have dropped to one of the lowest in the country. Is Oregon losing its promise? It doesn't have to, with your action. If you want to know how voters feel about education funding and the support it has, look to the latest local elections- statewide 10/15 local school construction bonds passed. This means we may have the buildings to house children, but without your work in the legislature, we won't have the people needed to teach them. At my children's school, I worry about safety because of lack of staff on the playground. Lack of reading at the 3rd grade level because we don't have reading specialists. Issues with behavior because quite frankly, children are like canaries in the coalmine. All issues are concentrated and show up in our community at the earliest ages- k-12 education. The low-income parents who depend on TANF, ERDC, and other services are at risk, meaning their families are insecure. The grandparents who are the sole guardians of their grandchildren and raising them as they need more care themselves are also at risk. Our children are bellweathers for our society, and when they can feel the disinvestment in their families, it comes out in the classrooms. Everything is connected, and it's why your bold action is so desperately needed.

We need serious change to our revenue system, and this will take determined leadership. Investment in education is a primary driver of economic development and we ALL benefit from strong schools and services. I know you care too and hope you will advocate for business to pay their fair share, as we all look toward solutions.

Yours Sincerely,
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