

June 13, 2017

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

I'm the parent of a kindergartner and a 4th grader, and I'm here today to urge you to support HB 2830. There can be no doubt that our public schools need more resources. Large class sizes, low graduation rates, crumbling infrastructure, and one of the shortest school years in the nation are just a few of the shameful characteristics of Oregon's K-12 public education system.

Based on current budget projections, our schools will be implementing significant cuts over the next two years. At my child's school, Sabin School, a K-8 in Northeast Portland, these cuts are likely to include dropping down to a part-time school secretary and a part-time PE teacher, leaving our students with PE just every-other week. But I also know that our cuts aren't as deep as those that other schools are facing, and significant parent fundraising will further soften the blow at my kids' school. We've raised approx \$100K this year that we can use through our school foundation to supplement our staffing allocation from the district.

I do not want to continue to spend my time and energy and resources helping to meet six-figure fundraising goals at my child's public school because public funding falls short. It's my belief that allowing parents to privately fundraise to pay for additional staff through public school foundations in order to make up for inadequate public resources is a major contributor to inequities in our schools. What I'd like to happen instead is for our legislature to address the chronic disinvestment in our public schools that's been getting worse ever since Measure 5 passed in 1990 and provide *all* of our students with the public school funding that they deserve.

Please pass HB 2830 and then continue doing the difficult but important work required to ensure that we have the resources to fully fund K-12 education and other critical services. While HB 2830 is a step in the right direction, it's not a complete solution. HB 2830 still does not generate enough revenue to fund our schools at the levels that we know from the Quality Education Model are required to operate a system of highly-effective schools in Oregon.

We can - and we must - do better by our children.

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