



Testimony for revenue reform hearing

My name is Jenifer Geller, I live in Eugene and serve on the Eugene School Board, and I'm submitting testimony because I care deeply about public schools. I'm very concerned that because corporations pay so little in taxes in Oregon, we are going to have to make cuts to public schools and forego much needed reinvestment in our schools once again. I hope you will put Oregon's children first.

The bill you are considering is a positive development and I support it, but our children deserve far more and I hope the legislature will pass a tax increase that will be able to make a meaningful difference in our state.

For Oregon's students, cuts would be devastating. We already have some of the largest classes and shortest school year in the country. We are failing to provide well rounded educational opportunities that our children deserve. I am finishing 8 years of service on the Eugene School Board. Almost every year, our budget discussions have focused on what to cut. Every fall, we see a new wave of parents who come to the Board to testify about class size who did not realize how underfunded our schools are until their children were in schools. Listen to teachers, parents, and school board members. Most people don't have kids in schools, including those who serve in the legislature, and they do not have a personal experience of the challenges.

We can't keep piecing together budgets like this. We need a revenue package that is significant and reverses decades of disinvestment in our schools and services. I'm urging you not just to raise new revenue, but to raise **game-changing** revenue that makes a significant difference.

Our children and public schools are counting on you. Thank you for your time.