

From: barragan.alej@gmail.com
To: Austin.anderson@state.or.us
Subject: In reference to HB 2830
Date: Tuesday, June 13, 2017 4:55:33 PM

Co-Chairs Hass and Barnhart, and members of the Committee,

My name is Alejandra Barragan and I am a second grade teacher in the Reynolds School District and a community member of the district writing to you in support of HB 2830. In an effort to learn more about what our families feel their students deserve in Reynolds, the Reynolds Education Association have conducted surveys across the district and three listening sessions among our Latino communities. The responses and comments are overwhelming and speak to a different perspective than one as an educator. More importantly we can observe how the concentration of poverty in East Portland creates greater barriers that our school districts cannot handle without adequate supports due to funding.

On behalf of the gathered community members of the Reynolds School District I would like to share with you some of the inequities that exist in our school district due to inadequate school funding:

Our families have observed the inequities that have occurred when some schools receive services for physical education and music and some do not. This is due to the school's zip code because of different streams of revenue. Families feel that their students are not being identified and serviced appropriately by special education services.

This is due to lack of support staff available to provide services.

Families do not feel that their students are safe because of bullying and violent behaviors. This is due to lack of counselors, social workers and educational assistants our schools.

Families do not feel that we have enough bilingual staff to respond to their needs and their students. This is due to a lack of staff to provide these services across the district.

Families do not feel that it is acceptable for students to be in classrooms with over 30 students. They have observed how teachers are not able to give each student the amount of attention they deserve. This is due to lack of funding where we have to cut teachers and increase class sizes.

HB 2830 is not the only solution to these problems, but it will give districts such as Reynolds an opportunity to address them. We must make sure our families who we represent feel they are sending their children to schools that will meet the needs of their children and not continuing to cut their educational opportunities.

I urge you to support HB 2830 for those families who are not able to be present tonight to speak on behalf of their students, but understand that the funding in their schools is inequitable and lacking.

Sincerely,

Alejandra Barragan
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Sent from my iPhone