

From: Scott Overton
To: [LRO](#)
Subject: HB 2380 Testimony in Support from Oregon PTA
Date: Wednesday, June 14, 2017 10:07:46 AM

Testimony to Oregon combined committee on tax reform

Dear senators and representatives,

I am Scott Overton, a resident of NE Portland, and I proudly represent nearly 12,000 Oregonians who are members of Oregon PTA as their President. I am here today to support the revenue package being presented today because Oregon PTA is tired of Oregon under serving the children of Oregon - not just in the area of K-12 education but in all aspects of education and human services which are required to assure that every child meets their full potential.

Years of under investment in education has led to current conditions - classrooms too full of students to provide adequate instruction, not enough engaging courses to make sure our middle and high school students are motivated to attend school and certainly insufficient access to arts and dynamic career education experiences. Too often we hear members of local school units discussing ways for their PTA to fill in the gaps by fundraising and creative staffing, and they do this not to enhance the basic education but to actually provide the basics!

My local optometric practice in St Johns is asked to donate to every local school many times through the year to make sure students have the experiences they deserve in the school day. I know that many other local businesses are stepping up in this way as well but most schools do not have access to large businesses that do not have local community points of contact.

Our current revenue structure is insufficient to provide a quality education, good health care, and food enough for children to thrive. We know that our parents are providing more than their fair share to the pot but many of the corporate partners in the community have not had the opportunity to step up. Now is the time for us to demand their increased participation before any more children are left behind by our system. Please don't allow any more children to miss achieving their full potential from our inability to provide them basic services and education.

Thank you for this opportunity to tell my story today.

Scott Overton

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