



MARK MEEK
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 40

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DATE: June 13, 2017
TO: Joint Committee on Tax Reform
FROM: Representative Mark Meek
SUBJECT: HB 2830, Revenue Reform and Education Stability Act

Chairs Hass and Barnhart and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to voice my support for the Revenue Reform and Education Stability Act and encourage your aye vote.

Oregon's method of funding our schools is fundamentally broken. For the past quarter-century we have primarily sourced school funding dollars from personal income taxes, which are notoriously volatile. The result has been years of painful cuts and uncertainty – including teacher layoffs, increased class sizes, the elimination of shop and career-tech training classes, and a reduction of vital support staff like school nurses and counselors. Oregon has among the lowest graduation rates, largest class sizes, and shortest school years in the nation. I believe we all agree that this trend is unacceptable.

The Revenue Reform and Education Stability Act is the bold step Oregon needs to reverse this trend. It will dedicate a significant amount of new revenue to fund our schools by reforming and simplifying our outdated tax code. We will finally be able to re-invest in our classrooms and add days back into the school year, reduce class sizes, and even restore educational programs that have been cut since the 2008 recession – including vocational and technical training.

Now is time for us to come together as Oregonians and give our kids the education they deserve. By reforming our outdated tax code, we can make vital investments in our classrooms and bring stability to school funding. Thank you.

Respectfully,

Mark Meek

