

February 7, 2018

Chair Holvey and members of the House Business and Labor Committee:

My name is Paul Kylo, and I serve as on the Salem Keizer School Board in addition to having served as an educator and advocate for public education. I write in support of a YES vote on HB 4113 to make class size a mandatory subject of collective bargaining.

I have heard many of the scare tactics being circulated to legislators and school boards about the effects and costs of this bill. The reality is quite different, and I think I have a useful vantage point. The reality is that this bill would allow educators and school District's to discuss and potentially address one of the largest issues in Oregon school's today: class size. The bill simply adds the term "class size" to the terms which are mandatory subjects of collective bargaining. Working together and discussing potential ways of solving the problem can only benefit District's, educators, and student learning.

What the effect of this change will mean is that one side may place the issue on the table, and it must be discussed. As it currently rests in the Law class size is not required to be discussed and in my over twenty-five years of experience advocating for educators it never is discussed. This bill would require dialogue about the best way to manage class sizes in schools. Other than the loss of a school district's negotiations team the unilateral ability to keep class sizes from being discussed, this bill promotes the avenue for discussion and sharing of idea to resolve a major issue in Oregon schools. I believe my District would welcome a chance to discuss with our educators' ways to resolve classroom overcrowding, behavior problems created by overcrowding, and allowing teachers to spend time teaching rather dealing with classroom management issues created by overcrowded classrooms.

Class sizes are too large. The problem has gone unaddressed for too long, and now is the time to begin the conversation, and HB 4113 is the opportunity.

This school board member believes in local control and in local deliberations on problems that we face as a District, and I urge you to vote YES on HB 4113.

Sincerely,

Paul Kylo

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