

John M. Rexford
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RE: SUPPORT OF HB 2074

February 28, 2019

To the Chair, Co-Chairs, and Members of the House Education Committee:

I write in support of HB 2074, which would modify and improve the calculation of current service level (CSL) for kindergarten through grade 12 public education. I speak as both an individual member of the Quality Education Commission (QEC) and as a retired Superintendent.

The QEC examined the effects of the present approach to calculation of the CSL. In our paper titled "Oregon Continues to Underfund K-12 Education" dated May of 2018, we concluded that **the CSL has an unintentional effect over time of ratcheting down resources for the K-12 education system**. Details of that conclusion may be found at: <https://www.oregon.gov/ode/reports-and-data/taskcomm/Documents/QEMReports/QEC%20Short%20Paper%20Final%2005-22-18%20v2.pdf>

In addition, the QEC informally reviewed the calculation of CSL for the upcoming 2019-21 biennial budget. It appears that **several structural cost drivers were either underestimated or overlooked**. Specifically, the impacts of increasing PERS and health care costs were underestimated. In addition, the effect of the current biennium's 50/50 split of yearly appropriation was not considered.

Based on my involvement in building K-12 School District and/or Education Service District budgets for more than thirty years, I am pleased to see that HB 2074 would **add a variety of education stakeholders to improve the process**. It is my experience that those people closest to the actual work of education have great insight and perspective, which is invaluable in determining and allocating scarce resources.

Thank you for your consideration of my input. I urge your support of HB 2074.

Sincerely,



John M. Rexford
Superintendent (Retired)
Quality Education Commissioner