

From: [Lisa Allen](#)
To: [JWMED Exhibits](#)
Subject: written testimony for 3/7
Date: Tuesday, March 5, 2019 7:43:33 PM

Hello,

Below please find written testimony for 3/7. I plan to attend and testify in person, but what I found online suggested sending written material ahead of time as well.

Thank you!

Testimony:

Dear Chairs Frederick and McLain and Committee Members,

Thank you for your service to our state in the legislature and to our children on the Joint Subcommittee on Education.

My name is Lisa Allen, and I serve as the Chair of the Hillsboro School District. Hillsboro is the fourth largest district in the state and we serve over 20,000 students.

Our district is a shining example of innovation, ingenuity, and doing more with less. We are proud to do our part to boost Oregon's graduation rates, as our graduation rate is nearly 85%.

As you know, Oregon's system of funding education has left our students behind. Over the last 10 years, nearly \$64 million have been cut from Hillsboro School District alone, with a net reduction of 18 days. That is almost one month of school lost!

We must do better. Last week, several School Board members from the Washington County region visited Salem to chat with our legislators. While there, we received a preview of the expected co-chair's budget. Unfortunately, it painted an even bleaker picture for Hillsboro children than the Governor's draft budget.

The Hillsboro School District needs a State School Fund allocation of \$9.3 billion to maintain current service level. That is the service level that has allowed us to keep average class size just under 30 students. It has allowed us to achieve one of the best graduation rates in the state with almost 85%. It has funded state of the art CTE programs. It has created the opportunity for us to offer a robust dual-language program. Even with all of those wonderful things, we are operating on a bare bones budget. We need lower class

sizes and we need more school days. That will allow us to get beyond 90% with graduation rates.

If the \$8.77 billion allocation in the draft co-chair's budget is passed, that will be a shortfall of \$23.5 million for Hillsboro School District. **That is a cut of 28 school days or 110 teachers, with a class size increase of more than 5.**

If the \$8.97 billion allocation in the Governor's draft budget is passed, that will be a shortfall of \$16.4 million for Hillsboro School District. **That is a cut of 20 school days or 78 teachers, with a class size increase of almost 4.**

Please don't let that happen. Please fight to give Oregon's children the future they deserve. **Please provide a State School Fund of \$9.3 billion or more.**

In Service,

Lisa Allen

Chair, Hillsboro School Board