

From: [andrea.oosterhof](#)
To: [JCSS Exhibits](#)
Cc: [david.williams](#)
Subject: HB 2019
Date: Monday, April 8, 2019 7:38:07 PM

Dear State Representatives,

I am writing you this to inform you of our need to fully fund education here in Oregon. I chose to teach because I know I could make a difference in the lives of children. Every day I come into the school with a smile on my face because I LOVE my students, but what I face every day is slowly wearing me down. I have been teaching for 7 years in the Beaverton School District and each year the money spent on our children has lowered, and the class sizes have risen. I am barely able to support myself and my child on my salary, yet I spend my own money on school supplies for those who can't afford them, I purchase snacks for my kids who come to school hungry, and I am constantly restocking pens, paper, cleaning supplies, class project materials, Kleenex, and white boards throughout the year. I came into this career knowing that the pay would be low but the rewards would be high, yet I was unprepared for the reality of fearing for my job each year when cuts are threatened due to funding being low.

In the meantime, I continue to teach 30 children who each come to school with their own social/emotional and learning disabilities and am asked to teach them new curriculum each year and provide high test scores. Yet, there are many days where our rooms are cleared because of emotional outbursts and limited staff to help the remaining 29 students while the teacher attends to the child who is ripping up the class room. This has become a regular occurrence in my school. Our resource room teacher, counselor, principal and any other staff who is not teaching at the time is called from their own jobs to assist in these frequent room clears, yet the child returns the next day with no help...only to do it again and again. Having a day where I can actually get to all the curriculum that needs to be taught has become a rarity. Our children deserve better than that.

I URGE you to take this seriously. We need proper funding to keep our teachers who love what they do but are at risk of leaving this profession, and provide support for these kids who are suffering emotionally. Each year I have seen it get worse, while our support staff dwindles. There is a solution. With your help, we can make sure that each of these children gets the education they deserve. Please join us in making it a commitment to fully fund Oregon schools.

Sincerely,
Andrea Oosterhof