

Hello,

My name is Jasmine Quang. I am a resident in your district and have been for many years. I am now a teacher in your district as well. I'm emailing you today to hopefully sway you to vote for more funding for education and to support the proposal by JCSS by having you see what impact money has had in schools through my experiences.

I grew up in Sherwood, OR and went to Sherwood High School when the last huge budget cut hit. I remember it was my senior year of high school. I was carefree for the most part. It should've been an amazing year, I mean I was in my last year of high school before moving on to college and leaving my hometown. For the most part it was pretty happy until I noticed how much the budget had really affect my teachers. I remember that we lost a lot of teachers that year and on top of that, we were supposed to get new books for a lot of our classes but we never did due to all the cuts. I remember our history books weren't up to date and in my science classes we didn't do as many labs since our school couldn't afford a lot of the supplies. Seeing this as a student, it showed me how much people don't care about education, which made me not really want to go to school to be honest but I am so glad I did in the end.

I went to school and now I am a teacher in the Beaverton School District. I always knew that teachers had an impact on students but I never fully grasped the extent until I became a teacher myself. I have had multiple students open up to me about there lives because they felt that I was a safe adult to talk to. Due to the most recent budget cut, thousands of teachers across Oregon are going to lose their jobs meaning that even more students will end up losing a trusted adult to open up to. This is detrimental to students with mental health problems. Along with laying off so many teachers, classroom sizes will increase to about 40 kids per class. This puts tremendous stress on even the most experienced teachers. What makes matter worse is that all those teachers who will have large class sizes will not have the materials needed to be able to support that many students, so teachers will have to pay for many supplies out of pocket. Now I understand that teachers are never asked to do that, but part of what makes teachers teachers, is that we care about our students beyond belief. Meaning, that if we can do something to make our students' lives a littler nicer, such as giving them a pencil so that they can be prepared for the day, we will. Unfortunately, all those things add up and eventually puts a a nice dent in our low salaries. By supporting this bill, we can work together to help our students be prepared for school everyday and on top of that help create a bright, educated future. We can work together to make schools a better place for students to be in and hopefully a place that students look forward going to every morning.

Something else that I feel should be addressed is that recently, a bill was passed to diversify educators in pre-kindergarten through grade 12. Being a teacher of color, I can not stress the amount of students who have expressed how nice it is to have someone who understands their culture and that they feel like they can relate to me because I grew up in a similar environment in terms of socioeconomic status and culture. Unfortunately due to this budget cut, many educators including me, who help better reflect the student body, will end up being laid off.

Schools are expected to meet so many requirements these days in terms of standards, diversity, equity, and being able to provide for their students but they are not given the resources to do so. Our education system is being stretched so thin and we are expected to do so much with so little. This has to stop, I don't understand what it will take to make people see that if we don't support our local schools, we will have no future. I will always be for funding our education system and I will always vote for someone who shares the same value as me. If you so choose to not support the JCSS's proposal I understand. it is

a tough choice, but please also understand that you will not longer have my support. On top of that you will lose the support of many educators within my district.

I truly hope that this email helps shed some light as to how important education really is. Our students need us to be there and they need you to be there for them. I hope that this will help sway you to consider JCSS's proposal.

Regards,
Jasmine Quang