

**From:** [jennifer harrison](#)  
**To:** [JCSS Exhibits](#)  
**Cc:** [david williams](#)  
**Subject:** HB 2019  
**Date:** Monday, April 8, 2019 4:26:09 PM

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Dear Members of the Joint Committee on Student Success:

I am a 20+ year veteran of teaching elementary school (this is my 20th year in Oregon). In those years I have seen the repercussions of Oregon's unstable and unreliable school funding model. I have seen class sizes soar to above the 35 students I had in my fourth grade classroom the year of 2012-2013. Back then I taught at a very impacted Title One school, and that year, not only did I have 35 students of poverty, second language student, and skills considered at-risk, I also had 7 (SEVEN) students from Nepal who had never attended school and had no idea how to even sit at a desk or hold a pencil. Those students were born in a refugee camp and lived there until they were brought to Beaverton, Oregon, having been sponsored by a local church.

I don't have to tell you what a year that was! I had 35 students who all needed one-on-one help in a classroom with only me as their teacher and no other adults to help them. I felt like I failed them that year simply because there was not enough of me to go around to each individual child, to connect with them, inspire and motivate them, and to help them understand and make progress to achieve their goals, much less to understand the material and meet the fourth grade standards in each academic area.

Please do not allow another year like that one to happen again! Our district alone is talking about laying off 200 teachers for the next school year, and I already have a class of 29 this year! Every position that is cut affects our students. Larger class sizes mean less time each teacher can spend helping his/her students, cuts to our programs that are vital for our populations and resources teachers and students rely upon.

Our investment in public schools is our investment in Oregon's future, and I applaud you for taking this step to pass HB 2019. I urge you to please do everything in your power to ensure that we fund our public schools as defined in the Quality Education Model. Tell your leadership you will not adjourn without passing this bill! Our future is in your (and their) hands.

Thank you for all you do.

Sincerely,

**Jennifer Harrison**  
**4th Grade Teacher**

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