

From: marne.lee.mercer@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Lee Mercer](#)
To: [JCSS Exhibits](#)
Subject: April 11 Hearing - Supportive testimony for HB 2019
Date: Friday, April 12, 2019 9:51:07 AM

Dear Joint Committee on Student success,

Since I moved to Oregon in 2017, I have been made aware of and have been advocating for addressing the insufficient funding of education in Oregon. I went to work for Oregon Center for Public Policy, and, as Outreach Coordinator, followed the work of a task force for revenue restructuring under Governor Kulongoski. Year after year since then, the legislature struggles with finding adequate funding to bring Oregon's education back to competitiveness nationally, and effectiveness in preparing our students for careers for successful lives and a healthy economy.

After OCPP, I worked with Main Street Alliance of Oregon, surveying small business owners throughout Oregon, from Astoria to Lakeview and from Joseph to Brookings. A large majority of these business owners feel large corporations, especially, are not paying their fair share in creating the public structures we need like education. Main Street Alliance, among other business groups, is stepping up to support new and bold means of raising the \$2 billion needed to upgrade our education system. Lets ALL pay our fair share to make this happen.

And finally, during 5 years on the board of Health Care for All Oregon, as we advocated for truly universal healthcare, we began to see how we need to address the whole spectrum of challenges to Oregon, and have joined with groups like the Fair Shot Coalition to support not only healthcare, but education and housing.

Please be bold, stand up and step forward for returning Oregon to its rightful place as a state providing adequate education for our children and grandchildren going forward.

Thanks for your time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,
Lee Mercer
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