

From: jamie.h@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Jamie Harvie](#)
To: [JCSS Exhibits](#)
Subject: April 11 Hearing - Supportive testimony for HB 2019
Date: Friday, April 12, 2019 9:50:38 AM

Dear Joint Committee on Student success,

My daughter is currently in kindergarten at Atkinson Elementary. As a lifelong supporter of public schools, and a graduate of public school myself, I had always planned for our children to attend our neighborhood school. However, I have found the low funding in Oregon public schools EXTREMELY frustrating and, frankly, embarrassing.

Oregon public schools have been underfunded for many, many years, and yet we choose to do nothing in the face of dwindling resources, higher rates of stress among teachers and staff, and lower success rates for students. This is a failure our community and our leaders to put money toward what should be our highest priority. It's been going on for so long that the issue has become harder and harder to solve, while becoming more and more dire. How can I explain this to family and friends out of state? Do we not value our future generations? Are we unable to provide leadership and work toward long-term goals?

My daughter's kindergarten class has 28 students. This is far too many students for kindergarten - something that is obvious by spending 5 minutes in a classroom. It is ludicrous to say that large class sizes do not influence learning. I've seen her teachers work tirelessly, while still not being able to give each student the individual attention that is essential for setting them up with a love of learning and academic success in the future.

I want to see class sizes come down. I want to see more resources for special programs. I want to see abundant supplies available for schools and teachers. I want to see investment in programs that work towards more equitable outcomes for diverse students. I want to see our state increase academic success for all students year after year.

I see showing leadership and significantly increasing permanent funding for public schools as an absolute necessity and the moral obligation of Oregon's legislators. I hope that you choose to support Oregon's public education system and the kids who are our future.

Sincerely,
Jamie Harvie
3313 SE 65th Ave Portland, OR 97206-2712