

From: lynda.m2m@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Lynda Martin-McCormick](#)
To: [JCSS Exhibits](#)
Subject: April 11 Hearing - Supportive testimony for HB 2019
Date: Friday, April 12, 2019 9:50:40 AM

Dear Joint Committee on Student success,

My name is Lynda Martin-McCormick. My daughter is a middle school social studies teacher at a Portland Public School. I am here to urge the legislature to fully fund Oregon schools. According to the QEM model, that would mean in the neighborhood of \$4 billion this year. Therefore, the proposed \$2 billion is only half of the funding needed to give our children, our teachers, our state, and our country excellent schools in Oregon.

My daughter teaches social studies in one of the top-ranked middle schools in Oregon. This is her description of the classroom experience at the pinnacle of the state's schools:

This 2018-19 school year her caseload decreased to 158 students. Why? The PTA raised funds to hire an educational assistant. Even so, her improved classroom sizes range this year from 36-24. Among those 158 students are 28 students with SPED diagnoses and a number others with IEP plans under Section 504. As you know, this means considerable time making special accommodations. She averages 1 1/2-2 hours a night on planning classes and then accommodating her plans. There are no SPED educational assistants to help implement those modifications. The one SPED teacher in the building has enough work focusing on the required support in language arts and mathematics. Sometimes the modifications are lost in the shuffle as she addresses the needs of all students in the 45 minutes of class time. Parents are rightly frustrated and so is my daughter. This is the situation at one of the best schools in the state.

My daughter's biggest frustration is not the extra work to help students needing extra help. Her biggest frustrations are the huge class sizes and the lack of support staff. This proposed \$2 billion plan will help, but will it help enough to create fundamental change in class size? Will it provide enough teacher support to make those smaller classes sizes work optimally? It's hard to have confidence.

My own frustration is with the tax structure. We are not asking enough of the corporations and the individuals who can afford to pay more. I fully support higher taxes for corporations, but I also want you to raise my taxes. I am retired. My adjusted gross income was almost \$41,000 in 2018. I paid no taxes this year to the state of Oregon. This doesn't make sense. A strong education system is vital to my wellbeing. I want our legislators to enact comprehensive tax reform so that Oregon can fully fund the schools, as well as health care, roads and bridges, and the other needed repairs to state.

Thank you for coming out to listen to community members today. I hope the message you take back is clear: This is no time for cutting school budgets or maintaining our unacceptable status quo. It's time for game-changing investment in Oregon schools. It's time to ask a little more of corporations and our citizens so we can do so much better by Oregon students. Warm wishes for each of you as you carry out your important work.

Sincerely,
Lynda Martin-McCormick
728 SE 55th Ave Portland, OR 97215-1820