

From: denisecastanon@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Denise Castanon](#)
To: [JCSS Exhibits](#)
Subject: April 11 Hearing - Supportive testimony for HB 2019
Date: Friday, April 12, 2019 9:48:59 AM

Dear Joint Committee on Student success,

My daughter Adela started kindergarten at our neighborhood school in the 2017-2018 school year. Her teacher, Mrs. Paxton a veteran educator, was phenomenal -- capable, organized, compassionate. But the class contained 25 kids. It may not seem like too large of a class, but for many of the students it was their first time in a classroom setting. Many had a hard time regulating emotions and behaviors. Her school, Arleta K-8 had just lost Title 1 funding, so this was first year Mrs. Paxton did not have an educational assistant in the classroom. Adela had had two years of preschool and hit the ground running. By November she was reading actual books. She was excited about learning, making friends and having fun. But then Adela started coming home upset. Several other kids in class were being really disruptive. One day she tearfully handed me a note she had written. It read, "I don't want to be in my class anymore." When I asked her why she explained that several kids were being rowdy and disruptive, or as she said, "Not good listeners." While Mrs. Paxton was an excellent teacher, she was only one person. So she spent much of her time putting out fires with kids in crisis. I don't blame the kids who for whatever reason were taking her attention; they were children doing the best they could with what they were given. But that meant that kids like Adela missed out on valuable instructional time. And that is why we need more funding for schools. More teachers, staff, counselors, educational assistants and para educators. Not only are struggling students not getting what they need, but student who are ready, willing and able to learn are not getting what they need. Oregon's schools have been underfunded for decades. But every child in Oregon deserves more. Oregon's legislature needs to better fund schools now, for every child in Oregon.

Sincerely,
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