

**From:** [gawchk@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:gawchk@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Gretchen Kilby](#)  
**To:** [JCSS Exhibits](#)  
**Subject:** April 11 Hearing - Supportive testimony for HB 2019  
**Date:** Friday, April 12, 2019 9:49:56 AM

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Dear Joint Committee on Student success,

I currently have a daughter in Portland Public Schools. She has had a good learning experience, but since Kindergarten we as a family have faced a constant push for fundraising more and more money at first to ensure we had a librarian, and now it has gotten to the point of raising money to pay for teachers to keep class sizes down. I do not support this model and as a member of my PTA have voiced my problem with this way of "running" a public school that benefits those who can pay against those who can't. My family members in other states are stunned to hear that Oregon, (and Portland specifically for us), is at a point of having to fundraise for teachers. I have also been stunned to hear about families in rural parts of our state where they are in antiquated schools that are badly in need of repair and children don't have the opportunity for art and music unless, again, there is outside fundraising.

Schools are significantly underfunded and that has to stop. I applaud the committee for the Student Success Act and pray that lawmakers have the political will to make the right choice and support Oregon's children, teachers and schools. I have been deeply disappointed that corporate leaders have not stepped up to pay their fair share in this state. As I understand it, this bill will address some of that. But the fact that we are in the bottom five of states for corporate taxes and the same place for graduation rates is pretty telling to me. I know this isn't part of the bill at hand, but I believe if there are later talks of revenue streams a corporate tax must and should be explored and put again before the voters.

Thanks you for your time and attention to my testimony.

Sincerely,  
Gretchen Kilby  
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