



To: Joint Committee on Student Success

April 11, 2019

Statement of support for House Bill 2019

Investing \$1 billion per year in our schools and for our students' success

Co-chairs Senator Roblan and Representative Smith Warner and members of the committee,

Oregon PTA urges a YES vote on HB 2019 which will bring a substantial down payment on investing in our students, our schools and the future of Oregon.

After 100 years of advocacy Oregon is at another historical moment

Oregon PTA has a history of over 100 years of advocating for children and youth. Since the passage of Measures 5, our volunteers have struggled mightily to try to make up for the failure of our state funding for schools to meet the needs of all Oregon students. We are in Oregon's public schools every day and know what is missing for kids. Hard working teachers, staff and PTA volunteers are no match for a state budget that hasn't kept pace with the needs of modern schooling.

With the passage of HB 2019 and implementation of the dedicated revenue for schools we are about to deliver what more than a generation of students have missed.

JCSS state wide meetings revealed what we know about our schools.

Many PTA members were part of the Joint Committee on Student Success state wide hearings. We heard testimony of what we understand too well what is needed for our students. We know the stories of lost opportunity. We know schools help students who come to school from chaos tired and hungry, in need of physical and mental health care and from families who struggle.

We can fix this.

Oregon PTA supports the JCSS recommended interventions and investments

Start with Early Education and build from there.

- Increase access to high quality preschool and early childhood programs.
- Fully fund Early Intervention and Early Childhood Special Education.
- Invest in professional development for early childhood educators.
- Expand access to relief nurseries, the Oregon Pre-K Program, Head Start and Preschool Promise

Improve Accountability while fostering support not punishment

- Schools will have performance targets to increase: graduation rates; third grade reading levels; the rate of ninth grade students on track to graduate; and student attendance.
- Use of support team experts to improve school wide outcomes
- Student Success Teams used to support struggling programs
- Support best practices
- Audits on meaningful effectiveness

Build a more equitable education system

- Target new resources toward students living in poverty.
- Require schools to show how they will eliminate opportunity gaps for students of color, students with disabilities, ESL students, low-incomes students and students from tribal communities to receive funding.
- Create the Early Childhood Equity Fund to invest in a high quality and culturally specific workforce.

Provide additional services that students need to succeed

- Mental and behavioral health support
- Universal access to meals
- Increased learning time
- Smaller class sizes

- Fully funding career and technical education (Measure 98)
- More art, PE, music, libraries and additional extracurricular activities, well rounded education plan
- Bullying and suicide prevention (counseling and wrap around care)
- Special education funding to reach all who need support
- Reengagement programs for students who dropped out
- Expand and support summer learning and before and after programs

Dedicated, substantial and sustainable broad based revenue changes everything

Oregon PTA supports the work of the JCSS revenue committee and the proposals of a broad based, low rate tax on business transactions which will create the revenue necessary to help our kids succeed. We have supported a tax plan that brings stability to our overall tax system while generating adequate funding for PK-12 schooling. We have watched patiently...or perhaps exasperatedly...for a plan for better funding of education.

The proposed revenue plan is a good plan for our students' future. We know from the LRO briefing that investing in students and their education returns many dividends.

Oregon PTA leaders from across our state are united in our support for a YES vote on HB 2019. Our students, teachers, community and state can wait no longer for serious investment in our schools, students and future. Thank you to the Joint Committee on Student Success for the commitment you made to hear from Oregonians and make this important commitment to our students' success.

Please VOTE Yes on HB 2019.

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