

From: [Mary Ellen](#)
To: [JCSS Exhibits](#)
Cc: david_williams@beaverton.k12.or.us
Subject: Testimony on HB 2019
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To the Joint Committee on Student Success,

I am writing in regards to how important education needs investment now. I am a product of Oregon's lack of funding for education for the past 30 years. It began when I was a student, is current as an educator of 21 years, and now as a parent. Investing in education will make a difference for kids in Oregon. It can't wait.

I've been in elementary education for 21 years. I keep thinking I have seen it all, but every year I have more to tell. I spent 20 years in a small school district that has had to cut PE, Music, counseling, and library services. Due to lack of funding, days continue to have to be cut, as services are already scarce, and class sizes are already in their upper 30's - 50's. Students now in high school, don't know what a full year of school looks like, as days continue to be cut year after year. Student instruction continues to be cut short for no fault of their own. Students ask why they can't have PE teachers and music programs. Students are hungry to learn and they know there is more for them. They want to be in school and they should have programs as basic as PE, Music, and library. Kids deserve more.

I am now in a much larger school district and am watching teachers and programs being cut and reduced. Class sizes are going up and programs are now being reduced and cut. As an educator I can't fully support the students I work with when class sizes remain large and resources limited. I can't do my job to the way I know it can be done and should be done, because we have a severe lack of funding. Kids deserve better.

As a parent it makes my heart break that my kids have to go through the same budget issues that began 30 years ago, when I was in school. Please help put an end to this 30 year cycle. They deserve better.

It is time to fund education. I know with funding that students can grow to their fullest potential. They can be in smaller class sizes, have basic programs, receive the resources and programs they need to thrive.

Please fund education in the state of Oregon.

Mary Ellen McGinty
Parent

NBCT