

**From:** [robert wood](#)  
**To:** [JCSS Exhibits](#)  
**Cc:** [david williams](#)  
**Subject:** SUPPORT for HB3427  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 17, 2019 4:27:23 PM

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*Please include these comments in the official record for HB 3427*

I am a concerned voter and educator, and I am asking the Oregon legislature to properly fund Oregon schools. I work as a teacher at Merlo Station HS in Beaverton, an alternative program serving at-risk youth. Our program is small, but it serves a great need in Beaverton and in the Portland Metro region. Going into this year, we saw the cutting of 2.5 positions. Going into next year, with current funding, we will cut an additional 3 positions, including our social worker. Our feeder middle schools, the schools that tend to send us the most students, will each cut a counselor in their programs. Our superintendent has already prepared us to expect that our class sizes will grow and that many of our students with the highest needs will go under-served. In studies related to school mass shootings, these schools had some of the highest class sizes in their states. Less contact at-risk teens have with adults leads to higher rates of neglect, crime, abuse of self and others, and suicide. We are setting our young people up to fail.

In the United States, Oregon has one of the shortest school years, and yet, there's also the possibility that next year we will have furlough days. On days when we don't see our students, many will go hungry and will not have adequate adult supervisions. In my 15 years as an educator, I have seen three cutbacks in spending, but never during a time when our economy looked fairly healthy and also never during a time when Democrats had a super majority in the state government. I am bewildered by the reality that Oregon's legislature and administrative branches cannot find a sustaining way to adequately fund our education system. Our young people are the future of our communities and our economy, and yet, we are not giving our students a chance to compete.

My heart hurt yesterday at our meeting when we learned of the positions that will be eliminated next year, and it hurt again today when I met with the staff whose positions will be eliminated. I'm asking you to fight for our kids, to fight for our educators, and to fight for our communities. Please help!

Sincerely,

Bob Wood  
Lead Teacher/Literacy Coach (A soon-to-be eliminated position)  
Merlo Station HS