



Hillsboro Classified United

AFT, AFT-Oregon, AFL-CIO, Local 4671

April 18, 2019

Senator Arnie Roblan
Representative Barbara Smith Warner
Co-chairs on the Joint Committee On Student Success

Greetings,

Thank you for allowing me to submit written testimony in support of HB3427 and the related amendments. I have the honor to represent the non-licensed staff of the Hillsboro School District. This includes educational assistants, office staff, facilities staff, bus drivers, and nutrition services staff. We work every day to support K-12 teachers so they can provide a high quality education to our students.

We are in desperate need of the funding that this committee is working so hard to establish. Our district has been perpetually trapped in a continual cycle of budget reductions that has resulted in fewer employees, shorter work days, and fewer resources for schools. A majority of my peers (%57) make less than \$25,000 a year which is below the federal poverty level for a family of four.

This abysmal salary is caused by a lack of full time positions (only 27% of positions have 40 hour work weeks) and huge number of non-contract days each year (only 70% of weekdays are work days). This forces our employees pickup additional jobs, to live in cramped housing, and to spend all their energy trying to survive. It's hard to be a mentor to students, or to participate in afterschool activities, when you are worried about making that month's rent.

We all want to do our part to ensure the success of all students, but it can't happen without people. It takes people to provide targeted instruction to struggling students. It takes people to ensure that our students have the behavioral supports they need to thrive in the classroom. It takes people to maintain a clean and healthy learning environment so students can focus on their lessons.

This is why your work is so important. Each additional dollar that makes it to schools can be used to hire additional staff to bring down class sizes, to provide support for struggling students, and to fund programs that keep students invested in their own education.

It's embarrassing to be facing budget reductions when the economy is strong, unemployment is low, and corporate profits are at an all time high. We need you to get this bill across the finish line and enacted into law. Our students are counting on you to prioritize their education and make sure schools have the funding necessary to meet the challenges of our time.

Thank you for listening

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Devin Hunter'.

Devin Hunter
Union President