

Please include these comments in the official record for HB 3427

Hello, my name is Kiersten Schneider. I am a 10th grade student from Mountainside High School in Beaverton, Oregon. My school is fairly new- it's first ever school year was the 2017-2018 school year. The school started out with just sophomores and freshmen, and we're adding in a new class every year until the school is full swing- meaning we don't even have seniors yet. When the school first opened, teachers came from all over Oregon to work at our school. Some even came from out of state! The problem with this is that approximately 40% of our teachers are in their first or second year in our district. Next year, our school district is going to be hit with a \$36,000,000 budget cut. When it comes to laying off teachers, those in their first or second year of working in the district are going to be the first to go. It would be absolutely heartbreaking to watch some of my favorite teachers lose their jobs all for the sake of "you've only worked here for a year, so now it's time to go."

Among one of these teachers is my school's theatre arts teacher.

I have been participating in theatre ever since I was about 6 years old. Theatre has taught me so many amazing things about myself, and some important life lessons such as teamwork, responsibility, and how to be a good friend. My teacher has been an excellent mentor for me in theatre, always giving me good feedback and teaching me how I can improve. The problem is that he came from a different school district before coming to mountainside, so he is only in his second year of working with the district and is at risk of losing his job. It would not only be devastating for me to lose an excellent teacher, but it would also be awful for him as he would lose his job and thus lose the thing that pays for himself as well as his family. He is one of just many teachers that are at risk of losing everything all because of the lack of funding.

However, HB 3427 could fix this issue. It would ensure that our schools are systematically funded instead of leaving it to the ebb and our unpredictable economy's funding. It will provide stability instead of just putting a bandage over the issue. HB 3427 is an investment in students that will sustain our future and ensure that teachers, such as my theatre arts teacher will be safe in their jobs.

I do not envy your position nor misunderstand how difficult the decisions you have to make are. I beg you to consider the future and realize the positive impact that HB 3427 will have on me as well as other students across Oregon. Even if you don't consider HB 3427 I appreciate your time you spent to read my email, and that you are willing to listen to the voices of students such as myself.