

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

An investment in education can and will make a difference for kids in Oregon. It is time to fully fund our schools in Oregon.

The current state of our schools in Oregon is not sustainable and is not putting our students first. I am a teacher in the Beaverton School District and am also a parent to 3 children in the district. In my 14 years in the district, budget cuts have been all too common. Class sizes grow each year, and services that students need are cut. Class sizes have grown from 25 students in a middle school classroom, to close to 40 students now. In a middle school of 900 students that once had 3 school counselors, now only has 2. Our school librarians were cut in the district 7 years with no plan to bring them back. This is unacceptable. My school next year is looking at cutting 7.5 teachers. This will require a reduction in science teachers to 3 total. In 2012, we had 9 science teachers. This year we have 7. How is this even ok? Funding our schools should be a priority for everyone in the state. This affects our students as well as the whole community. Our historically marginalized communities are impacted more. Equitable policies and practices are mandatory to ensure all students in our schools are college and career ready, but this work can only do so much without the funding to support it.

Please ensure that all students in Oregon can fully realize their potential. Fully fund schools and support HB 3427, as it is investment for the future of Oregon.

Thank you,

Sara Groat