

Hi,

I'm writing in support of HB 3427. I'm a middle school counselor and spent the better part of yesterday feeling demoralized and outraged at the injustice we're doing to our children with inadequate funding of education. I'm tired of losing staff, risk losing my own job, increasing class sizes, EVERY SPRING. Our school, Five Oaks Middle School, Beaverton, is looking at class sizes of 37 next year. Our school has a high level of poverty, trauma and inconsistent housing. We have enough behavior and mental health issues in the classroom currently with 30-32 kids per math/science/humanities class. Our art/drama/technology teachers are teaching almost 40 kids per classroom everyday and totaling about 300 kids on their caseload. (They have 40 kids per period, across all 3 grade levels and they have 2 sets of classes that alternate each day, meaning they are teaching twice as many kids as they were last year, 2017-18.)

We cannot continue to function in this state. Our children face so many barriers to education (poverty, dysfunctional families, mental health issues), they come to school not only to learn but to also feel safe and cared for. Our kids cannot learn if they do not feel safe and supported. Educators cannot provide safety, support and teaching when we do not feel supported. It is discouraging to stay in this profession that I absolutely love when our state doesn't prioritize funding our schools.

Take care,  
Rena