

From: [damien merrick](#)
To: [JCSS Exhibits](#)
Subject: SUPPORT for HB 3427
Date: Wednesday, April 17, 2019 3:06:24 PM

Please include these comments in the official record for HB 3427

Joint Committee on Student Success committee members,

I am reaching out to you to express my sincere hopes that our state will realize the importance of investing, fully, in public education. For too long our school districts have operated on a boom or bust cycle with our children bearing the brunt of load when times are lean.

I have spent the past 19 years as an educator in the Beaverton School District. During my time I have weathered the storm more times than I care to count when we were faced with budget reductions and the impact those reductions had on our educational lives. Be it increased class size, loss of instructional assistance, cuts in programs such as athletics and activities, these reductions cut the legs right out from under all of us.

Being a Health/PE educator we feel the increases in class sizes as much if not more than others. When average class sizes balloon in to the mid/high 30s or low 40s that means that our health and physical education classes are in the mid/high 40s or low 50s. At the very least this poses a serious risk of safety when that large of a number of students are trying to be physically active with one teacher. In addition, these larger class sizes are across the board meaning our total number of students is likely between 200 and 250. Assessing accurately and providing individualized feedback for that huge number of students each and every semester is not realistic and thus kids, and their physical health and well-being, suffer greatly as a result.

I truly hope that your committee continues to push forward the conversation around investing in education here in Oregon. The proposal that has been generated sets us all on a great path moving forward and I sincerely hope that our state legislators listen and take action.

Thank you,

Damien Merrick
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Go Apollos!