

Dear Members of the Joint Committee on Student Success,

I urge the legislature to create a stable and reliable source of funding for Oregon's students. Approving House Bill 3427 is good place to start. I have been an elementary school teacher for twenty-five years and have witnessed the steady disinvestment in education in Oregon beginning with Measure 5 and continuing to the present day. I have seen elementary class sizes over thirty. I have seen counselors, library, PE and music teachers cut to half time. And, as the requirements for academic rigor and the needs of the students and families have increased, funding has continued to lag.

Oregon ranks as one of the lowest states in the country for class size, graduation rate and projected future success. We rank number 45 out of 50 in class size and 48 out of 50 in graduation rates. Oregon ranks 44 of 50 in K-12 achievement according to *Education Week's* annual report *Quality Counts 2019*. Additionally, Oregon is below the national average on per pupil spending. Oregon spends just over half the amount of money per student compared to Vermont, Alaska and New York.

It's time for our representatives in the legislature to take a stand. Please start by approving House Bill 3427. Oregon's future depends on your support.

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

Sincerely,

Karen Stevenson