

Dear Joint Committee on Student Success members,

Please support HB 3427 as a first step, a platform, towards equitably funding education in Oregon.

As legislators, you must tell a story to your constituents about education funding in our state, just as we as teachers must tell local funding stories to our children, their families, and our communities. What is the story we will all tell, and will our stories weave together, or cut against each other?

The story I want to tell is one grounded in a shared, communal, egalitarian sense of fairness and shared experience, where people are proud of playing and paying their part in providing a world-class education for all our kids - where people understand that spending a dollar extra today on education saves tens of dollars down the line, because there is no better social investment than education.

You know our communities are divided politically, so take this opportunity to bring us together by investing in stand-alone, quality Social Studies instruction, K-12.

You know our communities are divided linguistically, so take this opportunity to invest in dual language programs, so every kid gets the chance to be proud of developing multilingualism.

You know our children are in need of hope, so invest in nourishing their souls. They need recess, music, art, and dance. They need STEM, and career options and reasons to be proud of who they are and where they are going. They need mentors, and social workers, and counselors, and librarians.

Please use the authority and trust you have to help us.

*With appreciation,*

Rob Hillhouse, NBCT

*Pronouns: he, him, his*

ELL Secondary Program Support TOSA

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