

Dear committee:

I am writing to support the proposal of your Joint Committee on Student Success. I implore you to tell your leadership that you won't adjourn without it!

I taught in Florida for 12 years. Although there is a lot that is not going well in that state, at least their legislature realized in the 90's that small class size was key. They put money behind it and lower grades were capped at 20....meaning the actual bodies in a classroom, not a calculation based on dividing kids by all teachers.

I was able to coach my students to high levels academically and emotionally with this cap and with a 180 day school year. Teachers and students had time to function calmly and thoughtfully because of the ratio of adults to kids.

I have been teaching in Oregon since 2007 and have experienced the low and high tides of a poorly education system. It's embarrassing and archaic. We need increased and stable funding if we are to change the course of students who live unstable lives outside of school.

I dream of a year, post HB 3427, when I do not have to take time to plead for funding. I could be using this time-which is well after contract hours-to research other avenues for learning, make teaching charts, analyze student work to plan next steps in instruction, call parents to given them coaching tips, watch videos on new brain research. Please make this happen. Let me be that teacher. And let me continue to be that teacher regardless of the tides.

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"WE empower all students to achieve post high school success."