

I am writing in support of HB 3427. It is critical that we invest in our public schools and in the future of our children. For the past 12 years I have been a teacher and principal and have seen the negative impacts of budget cuts to school communities.

Currently, I am the Principal of McKay Elementary, a title one school in Beaverton Oregon. At the school level, a reduction in funding will mean larger class sizes for students and a loss of important programs for our kids. With the current budget cuts, our kindergarten and first grade classes are slated to have 28-30 students. There is no way a teacher can adequately meet all the needs of 30 five year olds in one classroom and ensure they are getting the high quality education they deserve. With class sizes this large, students will have less support with their social emotional needs, less feedback and less opportunity to grow and thrive in a safe, supportive environment. We know what research says about students that are not on track academically by third grade. Please support education to get our students reading, thinking and safe in school. Educated, informed students equals better overall outcomes for our state and our democracy.

As a parent and educator I appreciate your support for HB 3427.

Erin Kollings

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