

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The student success act is critical for student's success and I urge you to not only support this bill but pass and fund this bill.

I would like to share with you few specific examples in my 12 years of teaching that underscore the necessity to fund this bill. Over my teaching career I have always been a career and technical teacher (CTE) and experienced 7 school district. Teaching in a small district in Lane county in a CTE program I took over a program that was struggling and just as we were hitting our stride the budget crises of 2009 hit. During that year I was one of 9 teachers that were cut do the severe budgetary shortfall that year. Just as the program was having 3 students recognized national for their success in the CTE program the program was cut to save money. The next year in the same district 7 more teaching positions were cut. These cuts had specific direct negative impact on student's success such as reducing the elective options and increase class sizes. To this day the CTE program that I was teaching has not been brought back to this school district.

Just this year due to increased enrollment and lack of funding for additional teachers the elective program I have been teaching in for the last three years was cut because of class size requirements. My principal said, "we cannot have an elective class that only has 20 -25 students we have to have 30 or more students in elective class." In an woodshop elective class we can not safely have 30 to 35 students in the shop operating power tools without additional supervision. With the passing of Measure 98 we the people of Oregon have said the CTE programs are extremely important to the success of our students. I have given you to very specific and real examples of how underfunding education negatively affects students and not to mention the people that are charged with educating the leaders of tomorrow, the teachers.

There is a specific example from one of my students this year that illustrates the importance of funding education to keep both CTE programs and class sizes down. This student is a student that is in our Behavioral Support program at the school where I teach. As a result of their behavioral needs they struggled with core classes in part due to class sizes as well as the lack of practical application of academic concepts. Giving this student hands on curriculum that they can relate to and a smaller class size has allowed them to be engaged and be successful in my class. With this success it has given them pride and helped with over all school behavior. This is just one example of many. However, without the Student Success Act and school funding, situations like the one played out in my district this year will continue to play out in districts across the state.

I am imploring you to not adjourn until you have adequately funded education by passing the student success act. It will fund Measure 98 and support CTE education, give students the foundation needed to start school strong, lower class room sizes, and allow our students to be successful. My colleges, myself, and lastly our future leaders are depending on you to do your part and fund education.

Respectfully,

William Coltrin

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