

Dear Ms. Parrish/Mr. Devlin:

My name is Chris Gilbertson, and I am a 24 veteran educator, over half in the Beaverton School District as an ESL teacher. I will keep this simple and direct. To begin, I am asking for your support on the proposal for creating a \$2 billion investment in our students! I was disheartened to hear it didn't originate from the governor's office, but I am hopeful you will do what is right by our children. As evidence as to the why, it's simple really. First, from the macro level, this investment will both maintain and potentially expand systems currently in place that support students in achieving their goals of learning, growth, development, and ultimately graduating with the ability to successfully pursue their post-graduate dreams. Lack of investment necessarily means dismantling systems that protect our most vulnerable students; hence, this is a moral imperative, because in today's world, access to a quality education is a prerequisite to the Constitutional protection of the pursuit of happiness. From the micro level, these kids, our kids, are Oregon's future, face by face, name by name, story by story. We all know the myriad of causes to our fiscal situation. There's little argument there, regardless of beliefs. The past is the past. But going forward... this is what we can change. This is what we need to address. The time is long overdue for a sustainable and efficacious solution to stop this whiplash cycle where ultimately kids are hurt. And that is via a real investment in education. Like any investment, the dividends are what we look for. But in this case, it is the kids who need those dividends. And we need those kids for our future. Thank you again for your courage and perseverance in doing what is right.

Thank you.

Chris Gilbertson
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