

**From:** [beth merrill](#)  
**To:** [JCSS Exhibits](#)  
**Cc:** [david williams](#)  
**Subject:** Support for HB 3427  
**Date:** Monday, April 22, 2019 10:49:10 AM

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Joint Committee on Student Success,

As a history teacher at Sunset High School in the Beaverton School District, I urge you to support legislation in favor of new funding sources dedicated to schools. I began my teaching career here in 2007, right before the last recession. When I started teaching at Sunset, my classes were considered “big” if they were over 30. After 2 transfers, once in 2009 to middle school (I learned both that I am not a middle school teacher, and also that I am not an interchangeable part), and again in 2012 to middle school math (this time, I went back to PSU for a second Masters degree in History to avoid teaching 7<sup>th</sup> grade math), my experience has shown me that the economic rollercoaster that schools ride is harmful to our students. When I returned to teaching again in 2014, my class sizes were around 38-40, and now, in 2019, ten years later, they still have not receded. On average here at Sunset, our classes are in the mid-30s. 35 has become normalized.

Next year, the Beaverton School District faces a \$40 million shortfall and plans to lay off 200 teachers. And this is in a year when the Oregon economy is thriving! Oregon’s unemployment rate remains one of the lowest in the history of the state. How can this be? The QEM recommends \$10.7 billion to fully fund school, the governor proposed \$8.97 billion, and the co-chairs even undercut that at \$8.87 billion.

I urge you to fully fund education as well as work with others to find new sources of revenue for our students.

Thank you,

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