

Good morning, I'm writing as a parent of 2 school aged children. I am asking the committee to re-open all Oregon public K-12 schools immediately. Our children have not been in the classroom for almost a year now. A year without in-person teacher contact, sports and without any social and emotional impact of their teachers and classmates. K-1 is essential to the foundation of their education. We as parents had to figure out what to do with our kids literally overnight when Governor Brown closed schools. Most families were still having to work, and then were told they have to become a teacher as well. We are nearly a year away from classrooms, an CDL continues to be difficult for teachers and students. Making it nearly impossible for the MS and HS to return to in-person. I would like the Senate Committee on Education to work with Governor Brown to MANDATE the return to schools by March 1st,2021. The ODE RSSL needs to be updated to include larger cohort sizes, and smaller – per student square footage requirement. The sole purpose of public schools is to educate children, not the employment of teachers. If teachers cannot find away to have their own childcare work, and safety work, than maybe its time for them to resign. Our children NEED to be in-person school to receive the education they deserve and we as taxpayers pay for. Finally, our children are the least affected by this virus, yet they are being most affected by it. Please find a way to make this work and get our kids back in the classroom.

Sincerely,
Lindsey Johnson
Mt. Angel, OR