

Honorable Senate Committee on Education

I am a grandparent, a nurse partitioner and long time Oregon resident. I have always strongly supported public schools and teachers but have found myself more and more horrified and frustrated as time goes on. Yes COVID is real but so is science. You cannot pick and choose which parts of science you want to follow related to COVID, you can't say well wearing masks is effective, because of science, and then say but we don't believe the science that says opening schools can be safe with proper mitigation efforts. What is wrong with these teachers? All other essential workers in Oregon have returned to work, I work in a hospital I put my mask on, washed my hands did social distancing and have done fine. Yes there is a risk but its not all about me, nor should it be all about teachers. Children have been asked to bear the brunt of COVID, no outdoor activities last summer, no school, no nothing and now inspire of medical and scientific support the teacher think of only themselves. Kids are suffering, are you listening?

I am beyond frustrated, millions of dollars have been provided by the Oregon Legislature for safe school reopening, the ODE has a 100+ page document saying how to do it, the CDC says its safe, Oregon ranks in the bottom 4 in number of cases per 100K and near the bottom in deaths. Talk about racial and economic inequities, look no further than no in person school. Either open the schools or give parents the tax dollars and let them go to a private school. Please help the children of Oregon, do not make decisions based on "feelings" but facts.

Thank you  
Marcia Callender