

3/9/2021

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to ask you to please consider adding to SB 580 unions ability to add writing about case load and class size. I am a middle school PE/Health teacher in the Beaverton School District. I often have class sizes of 48 students at one time. In that class of 48 there are typically ten students on IEPs, and at least two students with 504s. Most of the time I am the only adult in the class. Having such large numbers in PE makes it challenging to teach physical literacy as well as keep all students safe. In addition to teaching PE we also teach the same students health. The same 48 students go into a classroom to be taught sensitive topics such as addiction, depression, anxiety, suicide, sexual abuse, STD's, physical abuse to name a few. I have had the opportunity to teach health and PE in classes of 30 or less students and I cannot express enough how dramatically different that instruction is versus teaching to a class of 48. In a time when teens mental health is such a struggle and how important we know physical movement is I am asking you to please consider adding this verbiage into the bill toward lowering class size. Student relationships are key and with such large classes it makes it almost impossible to create positive bonds with our students.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Dena Gentry
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