



3108 SE 50th Ave, Suite A
Portland, OR 97206
Office: 503-234-3928
Fax: 503-234-6024
office@oregonpta.org
www.oregonpta.org

Date: March 31, 2021

To: Education Subcommittee of Ways and Means, Co-Chairs Fredrick and McLain & Members

From: Kristi Dille, President, Oregon Parent Teachers Association

RE: SB 5514 (State School Fund)

Good afternoon Co-Chair Fredrick, Co-Chair McLain, and members of the committee,

My name is Kristi Dille, I am the Oregon PTA president, a mother of four children including a high school-aged daughter, and a school secretary in a Title one elementary school. As a PTA volunteer of over 20 years and now state president I represent EVERY student in Oregon. Our mission is to make every child's potential a reality, part of that reality is a quality public school education. This budget should reflect our best work to support all Oregon children.

As you know this school year has been a challenge for all of us.

Our teachers, and other staff...along with parents, families, and our many partners...have done some amazing work to keep our children engaged and learning.

As we return to our school buildings we must make that transition as strong as we can, now, and in the fall. Our children and youth are looking for us to commit to them... that we can make their return to in-person learning safe, healthy, and student-focused in every way.

I appreciate the effort that has been made to meet those needs in this budget but I am concerned about a budget of 9.1 billion. As our K12 coalition partners have testified, our students need us to fund our schools and programs for students better than that. We all have an obligation to make sure that we move our students forward and meet them where they are...not just academically but emotionally. A budget of at least 9.6 billion dollars will put our state in a better position to meet those needs. We cannot allow our students to go backward

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As our students come back into our buildings they are at such varying levels of success it is our duty to make sure we have systems in place and the capacity to support those systems of support to help EACH child reach their full potential. This capacity includes more support in each of the buildings and wraparound services. **I have a front-row seat** to what it looks like for kids, families, and staff returning to school. **They need us now more than ever.**

This is the time to show Oregon students just how much of a priority they are and assure Oregon families that their students' education is Oregon's top priority.

Thank you,

Kristi Dille