



May 19, 2021

Chair Paul Holvey  
Vice-Chair Daniel Bonham  
Vice-Chair Dacia Grayber  
Members of the House Committee on Business and Labor

**RE: SB 580 – Relating to Class Sizes and Collective Bargaining**

Dear Chair Holvey, Vice-Chair Bonham, Vice-Chair Grayber, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Oregon Business Council (OBC), I am writing to express concerns regarding SB 580. OBC has long advocated for a more equitable, student-centered education system. We are concerned that SB 580 will impede Oregon's strategic efforts to make equity-based investments to improve student outcomes and meet the needs of Oregon's students.

SB 580 would add class sizes and caseload limits as a mandatory subject during collective bargaining for all Oregon school districts. Class size already exists as a permissive subject of bargaining. In addition, the Student Success Act of 2019 created the Student Investment Account to provide districts grants for targeted programs, including reducing class size. The SIA allows districts to focus on the priority needs of their communities with the resources available to them.

Oregon is making progress in its efforts to improve academic outcomes. Colt Gill recently announced an 82.6% four-year graduation rate for Oregon, a record high. These outcomes, according to Gill, are due to the dedicated work of educators, families and community partners, and historic levels of targeted investments through the Student Success Act into policies and programs to close the achievement gap. There is limited academic study on class size, but recent studies and articles indicate that class size reduction policies are expensive and that other investments, such as targeted, equity-based investments, will be more beneficial.

Educators have shown great leadership during an unprecedented year of change. I urge you to oppose SB 580 and allow districts to target resources on the community-prioritized programs and services that best support educators and our students who have been historically underserved.

Sincerely,

Duncan Wyse  
President  
Oregon Business Council