

Submitter: Sonya Bastendorff

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Education

Measure: HB5015

Dear Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of the Joint Ways and Means Education sub-committee.

My name is Sonya Bastendorff, I was born and raised in Oregon. Currently, my family and I live in Portland. I have two children, one in 3rd grade at Hayhurst Elementary School and a 4-year old in preschool. I am writing to today in strong support for allocating \$11.9 billion to the State School Fund based on the recommendations from the 2022 Quality Education Model. I believe the adequate funding of our public schools, teachers and programs should be a number one priority for our state if we are to ensure a prosperous future for our residents. I am astonished that Oregon continues to fall short of the national average for per student funding year after year. This is especially disappointing considering the real learning gap that COVID left in its wake, and essential elements such as art, music, teaching assistants, and mental health staff constantly on the chopping block—not to mention parents and the community having to raise funds through individual school foundations in order to try and save teaching staff positions. It is frustrating to say the least.

Oregon has a dedicated commission of education professionals who have done the research and analysis, it is time that we implemented their funding recommendation at its full strength, including returning the Corporate kicker dollars to the State School Fund as mandated. Thank you for taking the time to read my letter. I urge you to allocate \$11.9 billion to the State School fund.

Sincerely,
Sonya Bastendorff