

March 22, 2023

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

We support a minimum \$10.3 billion, non-cuts budget for the State School Fund

My name is Lisa Kensel and along with my fellow signers below, we represent Oregon PTA which is a volunteer lead group with over 100 years history of advocating for children. We are here to support HB 5015 as the means to fund education in Oregon through the State School Fund but we encourage you to change the amount of money allocated to be a minimum of \$10.3 billion. This number represents the amount of money required to continue funding education in Oregon at the current level of service as determined by the Oregon Association of School Business Officials (OASBO).

You are aware that the past few years have increased student needs and presented unprecedented challenges for both students and schools. The third grade Reading levels in Oregon have dropped to a 20 year low, with more of our students experiencing anxiety, while adjusting back to in-person learning. This is certainly not a time to consider any cuts in school funding. We cannot afford to lose staff or student services, as that would be detrimental to an already fragile school environment. We encourage additional resources in order to achieve the best school environment, providing a comprehensive education for all children, of all abilities, to succeed.

We know through our combined experiences that our students are struggling to regain their confidence in education. Large class sizes, lack of educational supports, staffing shortages in every area of the school: custodial, nutrition services, counselors, administration, educational assistants, special education services, and teachers themselves. Schools with adequate funding will support our students, their needs, and our entire community.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter. It is essential to raise the allocated funding for the State School Fund to \$10.3B so we are able to meet the challenges that our students and schools are facing and see our students reach their full potential.

Sincerely,
Oregon PTA

Lisa Kensel, President Oregon PTA
Portland, Oregon

Nicole Bailey, President-elect Oregon PTA
Clackamas, Oregon

Diane McCalmont, VP Membership Oregon PTA
Florence, Oregon

Scott Overton, VP Legislation Oregon PTA
Portland, Oregon

Anna Doty, VP Programs Oregon PTA
Milwaukie, Oregon

Jamie Thomas, Secretary Oregon PTA
Washington County, Oregon

Shiela Duluk, Region 3 Director Oregon PTA
Independence, Oregon

Lily Cordaro, Region 4 Director Oregon PTA
Clackamas, Oregon

Otto Schell, Oregon PTA Legislative Director
Portland, Oregon

Contact information Lisa Kensel: president@oregonpta.org