

April 13, 2023

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As a member of the Oregon School Employees Association, I support quality education for all Oregon's students – from early childhood through K-12 to higher education.

Please prioritize state investment for the following bills under consideration in your committee. Our schools need these funds now, more than ever, to support existing programs for students, because they need us now more than ever for their social, emotional, behavioral, physical and academic health.

The expectation of what supports students receive in all levels of education is higher than ever. Students social and emotional health is just as important as their academic education. Yet the funding is not there to support staff in training, to support our own mental health, nor to give students the very best that they deserve. Educators across the board are worn out: there appears to be little support for us to be able to give more, even though the expectation is that we need to do more. The current proposed funding appears that yet again, all educators must do more with less. Let's change that! Let's show educators, students, families and communities that education is a priority in this state. Let's fund education at more than just adequate – let's make the youth of this state a priority and fund education above what the politicians deem is acceptable.

Classified employees support student needs every day. We deserve basic worker rights - like Just Cause protection, equal access to unemployment insurance (UI) benefits and critical provisions to mitigate on the job injury - including access to individual education plans and de-escalation training. In the final state budget, we need these core policies and investments to provide a quality education experience for all Oregon's students and families every day:

SB 283:

- Just Cause for classified employees (no fiscal impact)
- 20% Salary differential for those classified employees who support special education
- Study on minimum salaries

SB 489: Access to Unemployment Insurance for Classified Employees

HB 5015: Full current-service level K-12 State School Fund investment \$10.3 billion

HB 3198: Culturally appropriate early childhood literacy programming

Thank you for all that you do and for the opportunity to submit my comments.

Sincerely,



Victoria R Baker