

Chair Nathanson, Vice-Chairs Reschke and Walters, and members of the House Committee on Revenue:

I'm writing today to ask for your support of House Bill 3221, which will raise the statutory limits on local option property taxes to reflect inflation and market growth and provide PPS with a tool to raise additional revenue for our schools.

Since my family joined the Portland Public Schools community in 2012, I have seen my child's schools transformed from centers of education to hubs for social work, trauma recovery, mental health services, medical services, food pantries, clothing distribution centers and many other non-academic services, but without the additional resources to fund all of those roles. The pandemic exacerbated all of the problems that require those additional services. Academics have been put on the back burner. Our students need additional assistance. Last year, my daughter's school, Roosevelt HS, graduated only 75% of its senior class. The 25% of students that failed to graduate will have trouble finding work and increased hardship in making a positive contribution to their community.

There is no more important role in our schools than teachers and the local option levy in Portland has been key to keeping PPS schools open and afloat. Although my family is located in Portland, I realize that this statutory change to the limit would give school districts all over the state the opportunity to raise additional revenue. Please grant Oregonians the opportunity to save our public schools and students; I urge you to support HB 3221. Thank you.

Respectfully,

Suzanne Clarke  
PPS Parent