

Submitter: Christine Hawkins
On Behalf Of: Educators in Oregon
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure: SB5506

Honored Joint Committee,

I have been an educator and Crisis Response Coordinator for 37 years and I have never experienced a time more crucial to adequately fund our K-12 public educational systems.

With the aftermath of a pandemic and higher educational needs to promote success to learn and graduation rates decreasing in our State

With an extreme increase in disruptive behaviors, especially at the elementary level.

With an all time increase in external threats of school shootings and death by firearms as the leading cause of death for children.

With an increase in the amount of threat assessments processed in schools.

We need to increase student to adult connections, we need to increase mental health support and we need to continue to create schools as a sanctuary for students to feel safe and supportive. All of these will contribute to student success academically but require adequate funding.

Please consider prioritizing our State investment for House Bill 5015 and fully fund the \$10.3 billion dollars. This is critical for our children!

Thank you,
Chris Hawkins
Corvallis, Oregon