

April 14, 2023  
Newport, OR

Chairs Sanchez and Steiner,

My name is Jonathan Gault, and I am the President of Springfield EA in Springfield - an association of K12 certified educators. I am speaking today to plead for a current service level investment in both K12 and Community Colleges, as well as passage of the education workforce Senate Bill 283.

With investments made to address students' elevated academic, social and emotional needs following the pandemic, there has been growth evident, due to increased staffing. More adults in the system allows students greater access to specialty services like counseling and less disruption in their educational trajectory. For an example of disruption, when specialists are pulled to cover classes (due to a lack of substitute coverage), vital student services like Speech, English Language Development, and Reading and Math support groups are not able to meet and student growth is stunted. It is critical to keep the momentum gained through investments moving forward with stable funding. The dependable foundation of safety and consistency distinct to schools where students thrive MUST be protected.

In Springfield, we currently have only five nurses to serve over 10,000 students. By 2020, school districts were supposed to have one nurse for every 750 students. This would mean that in Springfield, we should have hired at least 8 more nurses. Now, the suggestion is to have one per building; so, for Springfield to align with this state minimum, it would require an investment of well over \$1,000,000. We also don't have enough Special Education teachers, School Psychologists, Speech Language Pathologists, and we're about to lose around 20 full time building substitutes who were hired with one-time money.

We need stable funding to solidify the full spectrum of quality services offered to the public for which we serve - this would mean approving a budget of \$10.3 billion for K12, \$855 million for community colleges, and funding the education workforce Senate Bill 283.

Thank you,

**Jonathan M. Gault** (he, him, his)  
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