

Submitter: Megan McAlister

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee
On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB5516

I am writing to advocate for increased funding for public schools across Oregon. Our public schools play a vital role in strengthening our communities and shaping the future of our children. As a resident of Portland and proud Bridlemile Elementary parent, I am deeply concerned about the impact of of inadequate school funding on our schools and our students.

The \$40 million budget reduction being proposed is unacceptable- this translates to the loss of 220 teaching positions and support staff in Portland Public Schools alone. Our most vulnerable students needing specialized support will suffer the most. These budget cuts will directly impact class sizes, special education, arts, music, physical activity, nurse and counselor availability for students. These are critical pieces of public education that cannot be cut.

I urge you to fully fund our public schools to set our students and faculty up for success. Increased class sizes and reduced specialized services will have a direct and negative impact on all students. Please stand up for our children and fully fund our schools at the levels required.

Thank you,
Megan McAlister