

Submitter: Ezra Weiss

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee  
On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB5516

Dear Joint Subcommittee On Education,

My name is Ezra Weiss and I am a community member and parent in Portland. I am writing to you in support of SB 5516, and calling on the state to increase the funding beyond the proposed \$11.36 billion, and to increase funding for special education services this session.

I volunteer regularly at my kid's school, and see on a regular basis how hard the teachers are working in a system that is already obviously underfunded. I see how hard the students are working to make due with overcrowded classrooms and not enough school days. We have navigated the system for special education for years, learning the ins and outs of IEP's and disability law. With the proper supports, my kid has proved to be extremely successful in the classroom. The paraeducators he works with are the most important people to helping him succeed every day. They are so valuable to our family, and they need to be paid their worth. There is already a shortage of paras, and we can't afford to lose any of them. For this reason, I'm asking you to please increase funding beyond the \$11.36 billion, and especially for special education services. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Ezra Weiss  
Portland, Oregon