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On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee
On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB5516

Oregon needs to finally do right by its kids. We are bottom of the barrel in learning outcomes, and outdated, restrictive laws have hamstrung districts for far too long. My personal story is that my child is one of the COVID kinders, whose schooling began online. You can imagine, that this is not a good way to start school. Then, their first-grade year was basically a kindergarten repeat, filled with chaotic, explosive behaviors and teacher burnout. The subsequent years have been a mixed bag of learning, interrupted by the PPS strike, and an ice storm. Now at our small neighborhood school in PPS, we are losing a grade-level teacher and these kids are being forced to combine in 4th - 5th blended classes b/c there is not enough money to give ALL 5th graders in the district a grade-level 5th-grade experience. The state and our district should be especially attuned to this cohort of students. Oregon remained closed for far longer than other states during COVID and the federal aid provided was not tracked to outcomes. It's a punch in the gut to those of us who have stood by public education.

Please fully fund our schools.