

Submitter: Sara Thompson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee
On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB5516

I am writing to advocate for an even larger increase in funding for our state's public schools. While the proposed amount of 11.36 billion is an increase, it is still not enough to adequately provide for our students. We need funding to add more teachers, more support staff, and more school counselors and school social workers. I am an educator at a public school in Gresham and a parent to two children in Portland. I have seen firsthand how staff cuts have made significant negative impacts on children's education. If we want to have reading and math scores that we can be proud of, we need to invest in our schools. We also need to increase funds to our students with IEPs. It is unacceptable that there is a cap on special education funding in this state. We need to direct resources to those who need it most.