

Submitter: Caroline Buchalter  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee  
On Education  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB5516

I am a third grade public school teacher in the Reynolds school district. If the state does not support funding for our schools, on our district alone, we stand to lose at least 100 certified positions. At my specific School, this means four classroom positions that would be cut. If this happens, our class sizes will jump from approximately 24 students to approximately 33 students. These class sizes are unacceptable. In my current class of 23 students, I have 3 students with IEP's, 6 ELL students, 3 students with medical 504 plans, and about 3/4 of my students have many other complex needs due to trauma and low socioeconomic status. When you add an additional 10 to 12 students to any given class, the needs become insurmountable and students are no longer having their needs met by a single teacher. It makes the job untenable and frankly students are not able to do their best learning and teachers are not able to reach and teach every individual in class sizes that large. Please fund public education. These students matter. And when we fire that many teachers, we are turning people away from a crucial and valuable profession. We need critical thinkers who are educated and can uphold our democratic nation. It is a dire time in our country, and now more than ever it is so important that we are able to serve students in public schools.