

Submitter: Maegan Vidal  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5006  
Joint Ways and Means Committee  
House Bill 5006  
Saturday, March 22, 2025

Good day, Co-Chair Lieber and Co-Chair Sanchez and all members of the Joint Ways and Means Committee, my name is Maegan Vidal.

I am a director on the West Linn-Wilsonville School Board and live in Wilsonville. I am a proud student of Oregon's public schools and am here in support of fully funding public education at \$11.36 billion dollars as a core government service for our children. We know that education is at the core of our children's health and development.

We are in great need of increasing the funding cap on special education.

From their first day of kindergarten to their high school graduation, students enrolled in special education in the West Linn-Wilsonville School District are in general education classrooms, making our inclusive district unique in Oregon. We do not relegate students with special education needs to separate buildings or rooms, they belong in our schools and are important members of our community.

14 percent of our students in the West Linn-Wilsonville School District are enrolled in special education. The difference from the current 11% funding level to raising the cap to 14% equates to \$2.25 Million dollars.

We are a medium sized school district facing a \$15 million dollar budget shortfall in the 2025-2026 school year because of a significant decrease in enrollment, rising cost of PERS, transportation, and utility costs.

This month we notified teachers impacted by our district's budget shortfall, breaking the hearts of our students, our staff, and our community.

The \$2.25 Million dollars funded by raising the special education cap will hire 17 teachers in our district and educate students with the most need.

I urge you to raise this antiquated special education cap and support fully funding our schools at \$11.36 Billion dollars.

I respectfully thank you for your service,

Maegan Vidal, West-Linn Wilsonville School Board Director