

Angela Bonilla  
Speech for Ways and Means  
Mt Hood CC  
3/21/25

Hello members of the Ways and Means Committee. My name is Angela Bonilla, I use she/they/ella pronouns, and I have the honor of representing almost 4000 educators as the President of the Portland Association of Teachers. I am here because our students, families, and communities demand a state budget that prioritizes people over corporations, that strategically invests in education while preparing to fund at QEM levels, and that does not cower in fear of possible federal cuts.

I'm here wearing a PAT hat as well as a sweater from Greater Albany Education Association because I want to remind you what the lack of investment in our districts and schools leads to: workers walking out of the classrooms and on to the streets because enough is enough.

We are tired of fighting over crumbs while the wealthy hoard the meals that could help feed us all. We needed revenue reform yesterday: that includes reforming the kicker to withhold the tax credit from the top 1% of earners in our state. That includes rejecting new Oregon tax breaks for corporations and the wealthy to protect and reinforce existing state revenues. We deserve QEM funding, above QEM funding, and we can't get there if our legislators do not reform revenue to make corporations and the top 1% pay their fair share.

We need you to prioritize strategic investments that will provide the most opportunities for Oregon families and communities, especially during difficult times - that includes removing the special education funding cap and adding funds to support that increase, providing pay parity for part time faculty, and making class size a mandatory subject of bargaining. Without these investments, we will continue to see our education system crumble under the weight of unmet needs and the inability to retain qualified educators. we will see even more educators on picket lines across the state.

Lastly, and most importantly, we need you to hold the line against the federal government's threats. Stay the course, and don't make preemptive cuts to services before federal action. I need you all to be the defense against actions that we know are unconstitutional. **DO NOT PREEMPTIVELY COMPLY WITH FACISM.** Our educators and community know that when public education is under attack, We show up and we fight back.

**WHEN EDUCATION IS UNDER ATTACK, WHAT DO WE DO? SHOW UP, FIGHT BACK!**

**WHEN DEMOCRACY IS UNDER ATTACK, WHAT DO WE DO? SHOW UP, FIGHT BACK!**

Join us.