

Submitter: Jack Maag-Klobas
On Behalf Of: TEACHERS
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5006

Hello Oregon State ways and means committee. My name is Jack Maag-Klobas, and I am a 4th grade teacher here in this East Multnomah County. I am here today asking this committee to consider the dire straits of our Oregon educational system, before you vote on the 2025-2027 budget.

This week, our district informed staff that, due to a budget deficit in the millions, our small school district may need to terminate at least 100 educational staff. A HUNDRED. After reviewing our district's financial presentations, it's clear to me that this deficit is not, in large part, due to some gross mismanagement by our leadership, but rather due to the underfunding of our education system.

With PERS rate hikes, insufficient funding for special education due to wildly inaccurate SPED funding caps, and the inability to bargain class sizes, I'm here to warn you about the direction we are all headed. Schools across the state WILL be firing hundreds of teachers next year, sending shockwaves through our system. Our children will be impacted, for years to come.

Recently, Governor Kotek had backed legislation promoting greater accountability and oversight of schools. I'm here to say that, regardless of how much oversight you create for our schools, if our class sizes spike because we cannot pay a sufficient number of educators, state academic outcomes will continue to decrease. Time and time again educational research has affirmed that larger class sizes are directly linked to lower academic achievement. All that's to say, YOUR state test scores will not go up if we don't more fully fund education, to the levels that have been recommended by NUMEROUS government partners.

Please. We are here because democracy feels like our last resort. We are asking you to more fully fund our educational system. For students, teachers, and families. If we do not, our students across the state WILL feel the impacts, next year, and for years to come.

Thank you.