

Chair Lieber, members of the committee, I am Timothy Treen of Wilsonville, representing the West Linn--Wilsonville Education Association.

In the opening remarks, you spoke of maintaining fiscal responsibility as you allocate funds for the next two years. However, I must challenge that claim as the 11.36 billion you have dedicated to Education, though impressive on its face, is the continuation of a fiscally irresponsible trend for Oregon.

Oregon Students have been underfunded, but their development does not take credit. Each year you ask students to make due with fewer teachers, fewer services, and especially fewer special education supports because the money just wasn't there, they continue to grow, supplementing what the state has not provided by their own means. This places teachers the next year in the impossible position of reteaching, correcting misconceptions and misinformation, and potentially supporting students through the consequences of uninformed decisions. This requires more of everything from staff to time to resources, which of course costs more money. In Education, the nature of what we work with, the human mind, means deficits multiply with time, and that includes our financial needs.

Our governor has expressed frustration, and I'm sure some members of the committee share it, that for all of the money going into schools, the results are underwhelming. This is what you have paid for. You offered bandaids when we needed stitches; now, we need surgery and you offer stitches, applauding yourselves for how much more you are offering. It's not enough. What you called fiscal responsibility is causing Oregon Education to hemorrhage: teachers to other professions and states, students to private firms or no school at all, and our future as a self-sufficient state to short-term political wins.

Fully fund our schools. Remove self-defeating caps for special education. Take it from a teacher because we adhere to more than fiscal responsibility: *in loco parentis*. Do the same. Fund every Oregon student as you would your own flesh and blood.