

Submitter: Kari Jones
On Behalf Of: Portland Public Schools
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee
On Education
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB5516

I am writing in support of bill 5516 as a parent and special education therapist. Additional funding is critical to our school and student success in all demographics. Schools are at a critical tipping point with staff support in all areas. The more bodies we have in building for custodial, librarians, administrative, paras, therapist, interventionist, teachers and more all play critical roles and student connection, safety and education. Every moment an adult has a moment to positively connect with a student can improve self- esteem, regulation and capacity for learning. With the low budget and decreased staffing less and less time is able to be spent with each student. Students are rushed throughout the day, throughout the curriculum and throughout their social emotional needs. This is setting everyone up for less regulated children, less regulated teachers and in turn less learning and poor mental health. The schools need additional funding to support smaller class sizes and additional staff in EVERY building! That is just one of many reason I am in support of SB 5516.