

Submitter: Bjorn Sorensen
On Behalf Of: Schools
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee
On Education
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB5516

For our economy, any 'America First' initiatives, to spread opportunity and reduce crime, I implore you to fund SB5516 far beyond the \$11.36 proposed by the Governor. Funding our schools has always been a bipartisan issue as it is the BEST way to ensure long-term economic strength. We don't have to depend on other countries - we can do it right here, with good schools and more opportunities and freedom for all. The \$11.36 proposed budget still leaves Portland Public Schools - and school districts all across our great state - millions of dollars short of even maintaining current funding levels, at a time we should be far more competitive by funding schools at higher levels. Also, it is far more expensive down the line when we don't fund education now. So go far beyond the \$11.36 billion - for smaller class sizes, more student support, better trained teachers, the newest in technology to prepare for a globalized world, and more. Our kids and our families deserve and need MORE opportunity to fulfill their dreams. I don't care about my job as librarian at Portland Public Schools - I can teach anywhere in the world. But I want to be HERE because I want the best schools to be HERE. Now is the time our students and communities. Not incremental improvement, but what we actually need. Now is the time for courage in funding our Oregon schools.