

Submitter: Shannon Davis
On Behalf Of: my children in PPS schools
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee
On Education
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB5516

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to advocate for making funding state schools in Oregon a priority. As a native Oregonian (who attended K-12 public schools) in the 70's and 80's, and whose children now attend Portland Public Schools, I want to add my voice to the crowd asking to fund public schools in the state to the full extent possible. I understand that funding has always been about how many kids are in public schools, but when they are underfunded as they have been for so long, people leave and go to private schools, thus, reducing the funding of schools even more. This is what is happening. Underfunded schools leave for private schools or better positioned public schools, which then get overcrowded. Our economy depends on having a skilled workforce that is academically and socially prepared to keep our economy strong. Education reduces crime, good schools increase property values, and education is one of the best investments for our future, but none of this can happen if we don't fund our schools, if only children of wealthy parents can access a strong education, and if we keep making poor choices about funds. Know that residents of Oregon will leave if the schools continue to degrade.

Thank you for hearing my concerns.