

Submitter: Mary Kay Babcock
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5006

Hello, Members of the Joint Ways & Means Committee, As an educator, I urge you to stand with students by making meaningful investments in our K-12 public schools and community colleges. As a union leader, I ask you to join me in not only supporting but actively promoting, strengthening, and protecting our public education system. Our schools are the foundation of our democracy, and ensuring their well-being is a responsibility we must all share. With continued uncertainty from the federal government, Oregon must make targeted investments in our education system. This means fully funding special education, ensuring equal pay for equal work in our community colleges, and giving educators and district leaders the ability to meaningfully bargain on class sizes and caseloads by supporting HB 3652! Education is an investment in Oregon's future. To stabilize education funding, we must redirect the Corporate Kicker into an education infrastructure fund and increase our Oregon Opportunity Grants. We cannot continue to allow corporate tax breaks to drain resources from our schools. Right now, we have the opportunity to prove our commitment to stability and growth for students and families who rely on our public schools. I call on you to take action now to secure education funding, ensuring our students have the tools they need to thrive. In Hillsboro, we've seen firsthand the value of programs like summer learning and literacy initiatives. However, due to limited funding, the district couldn't admit all students who applied in the summer of 2024. By increasing investments in these initiatives, we can expand access and give more students the chance to catch up academically. I know the challenges present today are significant, but they are not insurmountable. We need your support as Oregon's future is in class today. Thank you, Mary Kay Babcock President | she/her/ella Hillsboro Education Association