

Submitter: Judson Brown
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5006

This state is seen, and not unjustly, as having among the worst public education systems in the U.S. There are a lot of problems that need fixing. And the first of them is making targeted investments that guarantee a sufficient and stable source of funding. This would help school be less at the mercy of the vicissitudes of economic turndowns or fickle federal policies. We need funding that allows us to stand strong independently, and feel less like puppets on the ends of federal strings. And part of this investment needs to include ways to improve our deplorable rate of chronic absenteeism, the 2nd worst in the nation. As a teacher, I can assure you that the 30-35% of kids who fit this category have far less chance of success in school. And the threshold is only 10%; I have numerous students who are absent 30-50% of the time, which all but guarantees failure. Oregon is too great a state to let this fester; lawmakers, PLEASE take steps to begin to address this.