

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

Greetings, I am Oregonian (born and raised) and have served as an educational assistant for students with special needs in the Bend-La Pine school district as well as a substitute teacher in the Central Oregon region. I am deeply concerned about the future of education funding and firmly believe that education impacts all aspect of life for Oregonians including economic mobility, physical and mental wellbeing, rate of incarceration and criminal justice as well as housing and homelessness. A robust and well funded education system is the absolute bedrock for a thriving society. With an already stressed education system, especially in rural communities, I am deeply concerned about the trends we are seeing federally towards less funding for education. In particular I have witnessed how budget cuts have impacted class sized as well as resources for students who experience disabilities or extreme behavioral challenges or students who are coming from poor households. As services for students who need extra support continue to be cut and existing staff members continue to have more responsibilities heaped on their plates, students will increasingly suffer and be unable to get their needs met. We owe it to youth in our state to ensure that they are set up for a successful future by appropriating adequate funding towards education today. Please consider the severe and generational impacts that underfunded school systems will cause and stand up for Oregon families today by prioritizing Oregon kids. Thank you for your time and service. Best, Dana