

Submitter: Gabrielle Pargett

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5006

Members of the Joint Ways and Means Committee, As an Oregon educator, I want to urge you to stand with Oregon students and make real investments in our neighborhood K-12 public schools and our community colleges. It's never been more important for our leaders to prioritize investments, and protect opportunities for as many Oregonians as possible. I am worried that if Oregon Legislatures do not support public education with more necessary funding, many schools across the state will not have the resources to adequately support their most vulnerable students. I can't help but to think of the students I serve right here in Astoria Oregon, at John Jacob Astor Elementary. The students learning English as a second or third language are the students I teach every day and they are some of Astoria's most vulnerable, as they rely on the language supports I and the district provide to ensure they are able to access their education in English. Without this funding, those vital resources, such as Flashlight 360 which prepares students for the annual English Language Proficiency Assessment (ELPA), would go away. My very position as an English Language Development specialist may be eliminated and classroom teachers would be required to find time in their short school day to teach a daily 30 minute direct English language lesson for their emerging bilingual learners. Let me just tell you as an educator with boots on the ground, this is impossible with all the required standards classroom teachers already have to complete in a school year. Please, do not make any more cuts to public education. Ensure the future of Oregon by investing in public education today, from preK to community college every dollar is essential.