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On Behalf Of:
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I work in public education in a title 1 school and we already experience a lack of support for students with the highest need. It is not too much to demand that there is adequate support for students on IEPs, students on 504s, students who need additional support due to hardship, and students who've yet to be identified as such. Right now there is not enough support and that is two fold. One, students who are not on IEPs or who need support that is not covered under this umbrella are falling through the cracks and teachers are working hard for the students and families, but there aren't budgets to support the staff needed to support the students. Two, teachers are burned out as this battle is falling on us in addition to the job. We are already under paid in most places and it is incredibly hard work that we do. When you add this burden of responsibility you burn out teachers and end up with a teacher shortage, further straining the system. I think it is imperative that Oregon lead the charge in education by creating conditions that support our most vulnerable students. Especially, at this time. Oregon needs to double down on education and show residents how to treat teachers and education. In my experience this year, my school's lack of FTE, lack of retention, and increasing need for supports has caused the following: Students who need speech services but do not have an IEP are still waiting for assessments in April. Students who have IEPs are completing speech services via video chats. For kindergartners who already have developmental delays, this is inappropriate. -In my class alone, there are 9 students who need additional support and they are not being supported beyond what I can provide in my mainstream classroom. -My student's parents struggle too and could use support in parenting to meet particular needs! While this is not traditionally in education, even now, it is important to realize that education for the whole-child means family, school, and home. Public Education should be our priority as we need an educated populace and we need to provide a budget that sets the standard for this in America. You cannot expect to combat any of our problems without prioritizing education now!