

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

Last school year, I worked as a substitute teacher in Portland Public Schools. I started the year in a middle school special education classroom where there were meant to be 4 educators offering support: 1 lead teacher endorsed in Special Education, and 3 para-educators. None of these positions had been filled by the first day of school, and by the end of the school year, only 2 of those positions had been filled full time. Despite being a substitute without a Special Education endorsement, I remained in that classroom for the rest of the year because I saw how much those students needed support from extra staff.