

Co-Chairs Lieber and Sanchez, Members of the Joint Committee On Ways and Means,

After watching the entire three-hour American Institute of Research presentation to the Joint Committee on Education in February, I had a renewed appreciation for the countless hours spent on the dais, digesting data, asking important questions, and doing so in a uniquely stressful legislative session. I am here today - as a teacher, a mom of a student with special needs, and a school board member. Thank you for your commitment to fully funding the CSL and raising the SPED cap. Education has never been fully funded in Oregon - and this year is no different. There is, however, a way to make our dollars stretch even further to directly impact students now.

Without additional revenue available, it is critical that the legislature ensures we are not burdened with additional financial and administrative mandates that could further erode the resources we are diligently allocating to improve student outcomes. But There were bills moved forward last week - for example - that unfortunately are going to do just that.

HB 3365 and 3652, SB 847 and 978, and 916 are just some of the many bills whose impacts would necessitate immediate adjustments to already limited budgets; forcing districts to divert money away from students. SB 916 and HB 3652 have the potential to cripple districts financially - they are examples of bad policy.

Even with the proposed current funding increases, many districts will still experience budget constraints that limit their ability to provide the high-quality education that every student deserves. I encourage you to talk directly with your school districts and consider a halt on any new bills that will require additional time and resources - **this cannot be the year to add more to our plates without adding funding to support it.**

I am happy to be available to provide your staff with additional numbers and examples of how bills will impact our districts. Thank you for your time and consideration tonight, and your commitment to all Oregon students.