

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

Dear Ways and Means Committee Members,
I'm a born-and-raised Oregonian and public schoolteacher at West Linn High School. Most school districts around the state, including West Linn-Wilsonville, have initiated major program cuts and layoffs. As a direct consequence of that, our school lost 10 teaching positions and in my language program staff has been cut in half. Next year, my position will be stretched to cover additional classes. Due to stretching coverage, I'm currently slated to teach 2 separate classes of 45 students in the fall. This is not a recipe for student success, or for positive learning. Our Special Ed team is facing cuts to student services and layoffs of paraeducator staff that students need to be successful. We are seeing that with an increase in state funding, we can bring back some of our staff, avoid catastrophic layoffs, and maintain basic services.

Please help support all students by pushing to increase the proposed education budget. The initial proposed budget increase is approximately 11%, while economic costs come to closer to 15%. The spike in PERS rates adds further complications. As a result, our district and those across the state are experiencing massive staff layoffs.

I know at my school, losing those 10 teachers on top of losing support staff would hugely impact our ability to reach every student and support struggling kids. It would make daily operations a huge struggle. Class sizes will increase, support staff will be cut, and we will not be able to meet the needs of our low income and special education students if these cuts go through.

K-12 funding needs to be significantly higher to keep up with costs, and to protect student access to supportive teachers. Please consider allocating the remaining 900 million in funds into the education budget for the next two years.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Sincerely,

Anna Yuan
West Linn High School World Language Teacher
University of Chicago BA '14
Stanford MA '16