

Submitter: Elizabeth Wease
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4125

My name is Elizabeth Wease and I have a student in the Gladstone School District. Last year our schools faced layoffs and budget cuts and this year we've just received notice that our school year has had five additional days furloughed.

I belong to the Parent Faculty Organization for my son's school and the burden on our community to essentially crowd-fund for our students to have adequate nutrition and resources is staggering. They rely heavily on parent volunteers to cover the gaps. There are creative spaces in the school that go mostly unused due to lack of staff. Our students are forced through lighting-round style support for fundamental reading skills as a skeleton crew of specialists are collapsing under the weight of their shrinking department.

I know the people of Oregon are precious about their kicker checks, but a surplus isn't really a surplus when the basic funding standards for our schools are not being met. The investment of those funds back into our State's school system will have lasting benefits for our economy and our communities.

Support educators. Support students. Invest in the future.