

**Testimony in Support of SB 1507 A  
Oregon School Employees Association  
February 2026**

Co-Chairs and members of the committee,

As our voice in Salem, we are counting on you to reject some of the most egregious and costly tax breaks for corporations and the wealthy and prevent cuts to public safety, schools, childcare, and other critical services. That begins with voting yes on SB 1507.

SB 1507 helps recoup \$311.6 million in funding for programs Oregonians care about by “disconnecting” Oregon from automatically mirroring some of the most costly tax loopholes in H.R. 1.

To be clear, there is more work to do beyond SB 1507. There is still a larger budget gap to close, and balancing the budget by slashing programs Oregonians rely on is the wrong approach. But one thing is certain: passing SB 1507 is a critical first step in addressing the budget crisis created by H.R. 1.

**For over a decade, I have worked in special education, and funding has never kept pace with student needs. We do not have adequate resources to provide the staffing, materials, supports, and space necessary to properly serve our growing SPED population.**

**Public education is facing increasing instability due to chronic underfunding and inadequate compensation for school employees. High turnover rates are directly tied to insufficient wages, particularly for educational assistants and support staff. In many cases, employees working for McDonald's earn more than educational assistants who are responsible for supervising and ensuring the safety of up to 75 students on a busy playground. These professionals are entrusted with student safety, behavioral support, and instructional assistance, yet their compensation does not reflect the level of responsibility they carry.**

**Additionally, many school employees go without pay for three months during the summer. Despite this financial instability, they return each fall committed to supporting students and maintaining continuity in our schools. Their dedication speaks volumes about their commitment to students and families.**

**Not only do I work within the school system, but I have also raised four children in it. I care deeply about my community and the quality of education our students receive. I am asking you to recognize the urgent need for adequate funding and fair compensation so that we can provide the stable, safe, and high-quality public education our students deserve.**

The decision before you and your colleagues this session should be clear: Prioritize protecting Oregon families, not further enriching the ultra-wealthy.

Please vote YES on SB 1507.

Thank you,

Christine Nicholls

South Lane School District