

From: [Travis Rooke-ley](#)
To: [JCSS Exhibits](#); [Sen Wagner](#); [Rep Salinas](#)
Cc: david_williams@beaverton.k12.or.us
Subject: HB 2019
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Hi,

My name is Travis Rooke-Ley and I'm a Teacher in the Beaverton School District. As a product of Lane County public schools, I feel fortunate to have received an invaluable education. I look back at my years at South Eugene High and recall many interactions with my teachers that inspired me to become an educator today. South Eugene equipped us not only with the tangible skills to be successful but, more importantly, with mindsets that included empathy, justice and globalism. To achieve these results, our graduating class of 2008 benefitted from manageable class sizes, dedicated teachers and ample resources.

Fast forward to today, my 6th year in teaching, and we, a theoretically progressive state, are not supporting education at a basic level. My class sizes all exceed 30 and grow throughout the year. Our teacher development days and our access to resources have recently been cut for the current school year due to an \$8 million shortfall. More concerning, we face an impending \$35 million budget cut here in my district, with similar measures taking place state-wide. As Oregonians, where exactly are our priorities?

After graduating from college, I spent a year in Australia and discovered some profound differences. Education is a foundation of their federal and local budgets; there are no measures, levies and bonds needed to raise the necessary funds to support basic classroom needs. Teaching is a noble and honorable profession, both in social prestige and financial compensation. The idea that I was going to return to the States and become a teacher was met with the same reaction we often have for doctors and lawyers. As an Australian colleague commented, "What could be more important than raising and teaching our children the right way?"

Today, here in our Oregon classrooms, the kids feel the effects of impending budget cuts. They hear the whispers that teachers they look forward to having won't be back. They feel the impact when tenured teachers are assigned to subjects they have never taught. Kids who need that little extra push feel it when they are battling 35 other hands for their teacher's help.

Many schools in the state will be cutting multiple teachers, adding to class sizes and increasing the workloads of those lucky enough to stay. For those of us who have not been around as long -- including me, just one year away from gaining contracted status -- it means leaving a meaningful profession that I have come to love and finding work elsewhere.

Thank you for your consideration.