

Dear Joint Committee on Student Success,

I wholeheartedly support and applaud your efforts on this proposal to raise \$2 billion dollars for education. This investment in education will make an impact on student success. This is something that has been needed for so long, so thank you. In our current forecasted budget, we are projected to cut \$35 million to our already underfunded programs.

I am the administrator who works with our most at-risk students at Bridges Academy in Beaverton School District. We work with student here on all sorts of issues ranging from anxiety and depression to substance abuse. We currently do not have the resources to fully support these struggling students. I would love to be able to provide a program with social emotional learning alongside a substance abuse prevention program that fully target the root causes of student issues. When we think about equity, the students I serve are the neediest and should receive additional support to navigate all of their barriers. The level of funding has not caught up to the level of support needed for our students. This upswing in mental health and substance abuse is a real concern over the last 5-7 years that I have personally seen and it is not getting any better. We must do something now to disrupt this trend.

I believe we as a state have a major opportunity here to finally fund education at a level that allows us to provide the best academic and social emotional support for students everywhere. Please do everything you can to make this happen. Our entire state is depending on this committee to make the positives moves in funding to positively impact the lives of our youth.

Sincerely,

Yoonwa Saechao  
Administrator/Principal  
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Together, we build

District Goal: WE empower all students to achieve post-high school success.