

April 11, 2019

Joint Committee on Student Success Oregon Legislature
900 Court Street, N.E.
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Co-Chairs Roblan, Smith-Warner, and members of the Committee,

Hi, my name is Lillian Painter. I am a student at Willamette University, and I work at Bush Elementary here in Salem, Oregon. I run an afterschool club on Tuesdays and Thursdays that aims to give students extra attention and help in honing their academic skills. Typically, our group of students is around 20 to 25. However, this year we have only had 11. The reason for this turned out to be that before the office manager could pass out permission slips to all teachers, she was transferred to another school in need of help, leaving the office at Bush with only vague ideas about what she had left to be done, and scrambling to pick up the slack. When students ask me why they were not invited to Tiger Club, I have no good answer. I struggled to even obtain the students we do have and made multiple efforts to have permission slips sent out again, but with no office manager a task like this becomes lost.

Given the fact that another school needed an office manager as well, it can be said that Bush Elementary is not the only school struggling with a lack of staff. The Student Success Act would allow schools like these in the Salem-Keizer District and across Oregon to rehire important staff positions that allow more attention to be paid to student opportunities.

I ask that you support Oregon students by voting yes on the Student Success Act. Access to learning is important for the future generations.

Best Regards,

Lillian Painter

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