

Hello, I am a parent of 3 children, all Portland Public School (PPS) students: a 6th grader at Ockley Green Middle School and 2 graduates. Because of the large age gap between my children, I have been a PPS parent for the last 18 consecutive years and still have 6 years to go. During my time as a PPS parent, my children have experienced cuts every year--to PE, music, the library, art; to their teachers, and the staff. There have been school closures with concurrent increases in classroom size, and cuts to the school year.

But you know what we have never experienced in the last 18 years at Portland Public Schools? Stable School Funding.

For most of the years I have joined other parents, students and teachers to demand more funding for our schools. And every year we are given the same excuses about the latest funding catastrophe, as we beg the school board to save our particular programs, while we watch them cut other crucial programs. And we all know that while we fight for the crumbs, the elephant in the room is happily devouring the cake. And that elephant is our corporate "citizens" who are unwilling to pay their fair share of their taxes and our elected officials who have not done their job to make them do it.

I am pleased to see that we are finally potentially moving toward a reliable funding stream for our schools, via beginning to consider taxing corporations. I hope that the legislature will be firm in their commitment to fairness by taxing corporations in a meaningful way. And that means ending sweetheart deals to companies like Nike. For example, the Oregonian reported that in 2017 Nike, as their profits grew, paid even less in taxes than they did in 2011. Much of this is accomplished by moving their money offshore to avoid taxes, but other deals like Oregon's 30 year single-sales method of assessment, insure that Nike never pays its fair share.

For this reason, it is imperative that they do not have a voice in determining how and how much they will be taxed for education. My biggest worry about this bill, as a parent and an Oregonian, is that Nike and others will have an oversized voice in the details of this legislation and will craft a tax bill that guarantees a low rate for them and other multi-billion dollar corporations.

It is time to make a real investment in our schools that benefits all of our students. HB 2019 is a good start at ensuring stable school funding.

Thank you
Diana Rempe
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