

I am writing to urge you to support HB 2019 and increase funding for Oregon schools.

I have been a teacher in Oregon for 20 years. Throughout that time, in addition to teaching my students, I have supported numerous fundraisers, canvassed door-to-door and made phone calls to ask for support for levies and bonds. I have made signs, and attended rallies for education funding. I have spoken at PTO meetings, spread the word in my own community, and voted over and over for any measure, or candidate, that supports funding education adequately. As have many of my colleagues, I have also provided supplies for my classroom from my own family's budget time and time again.

Over my career, I have had as many as 34 third graders in my classroom. One year, I was charged with educating 32 first grade students. I have also had as few as 25 students. From years of daily experience, I can assure you that class sizes are absolutely a vital ingredient for student success. In a class of 30+, teaching is reduced to management and information delivery. There is no time for differentiating learning, or personalized attention and feedback. Academic and personal growth for students is extremely difficult in this environment.

I am, quite simply, asking for your help. I am appealing to you on behalf of my students, my colleagues, and myself. Our students deserve better. They deserve to be seen, heard, and taught in a way that addresses their specific needs. Educators and parents need your help to accomplish this. We are tired. We are becoming demoralized, and we can't do this alone.

Be the champion we need. Support HB 2019 and do not adjourn until our schools are adequately funded.

Respectfully,

Yvette M. Wallace, Teacher, Beaverton School District

***Yvette M. Wallace, M.Ed.***

***Intervention Teacher, Jacob Wismer Elementary***

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*Communication*\*\*\**Compassion*\*\*\**Growth*\*\*\**Collaboration*\*\*\**Humor*