



Date: 4/11/2019

To: Joint Committee on Student Success

RE: Position statement on Revenue and Investments

Chairs Roblan and Smith Warner, Vice Chairs Knopp and Smith, and members of the Committee:

My name is Kevin Marr. My wife Constance and I own Motel Del Rogue in Grants Pass, Oregon and we are members of Main Street Alliance, as well, my wife is a member of OSEA- Oregon School Employees Association. I'm here to share why we support our legislature's efforts to invest in Oregon's education system.

I am supportive of the proposals on revenue creation that I have seen come from this committee. I am happy to pay my fair share, which according to these plans will be \$250 dollars a year. We are a very small operation but if my increased tax means Oregon's schools will get funding to help with things like lowering class sizes and more mental health counselors, we are all in! We teach our children to share and be good citizens to one another, this what we need to be doing as a business community.

The Student Success Act is great in a number of ways and we, being rural Oregonians, appreciate the effort to be more equitable in the distribution of funds for schools with higher poverty rates, like the one my wife works for. She's been a librarian with our local elementary school for 12 and a half years and has seen how the decrease in funding has impacted the kids with whom she works. I hear stories almost every week about a kid who is not getting the support they need either because of lack of food or home life issues-it's absolutely heartbreaking. Our schools are not equipped to deal with the high needs and our classrooms are at a breaking point. My wife does the best she can with what she has at her disposal, she never takes a day off because she can't imagine not being there for her students, if they just need someone to talk to or a high five from an adult who wants nothing more than to see them succeed. She does this day in and day out-she wears many hats and does so willingly but it's time for us to give those who work in our schools the resources they so desperately need to really set these kids up for success.

We are particularly excited about that Student Success Act asking for, "unprecedented investment in early childhood education". The kids that come to our school are absolutely unprepared to learn and if we can truly get equitable distribution of the funds for higher need

districts and we fund things like expanded access to Head Start and Pre-school Promise, I think we are going to see Oregon schools become what they should have been for the last 30 years. And that's a stepping stone to a successful, healthy life, regardless of your zipcode.

I respectfully urge you to use these proposals as a starting point for finding more revenue, potentially a more progressive plan, that really gets multinational corporations to pay their fair share, like complete reporting or an extra tier above \$1 million in gross sales. \$2 billion a biennium is good but let's do better!

Thank you for the opportunity to speak tonight.

Kevin Marr
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Grants Pass, Oregon