



Date: 4/10/2019

To: Joint Committee on Student Success

RE: Position statement on HB 2019

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

My name is Mark Kellenbeck and I am the owner Storage At Exit 24 a modern self-storage facility located in Phoenix Oregon. I am also an executive team member of Main Street Alliance of Oregon. Storage At Exit 24 has three (3) FTE employees. As a responsible employer my employee's personal growth and life success is an ongoing concern. That's why I applaud the Oregon State Legislature for their efforts to find solutions to Oregon's deeply underfunded education system.

As a small business owner, I don't mind paying my fair share in taxes as I know that well-funded schools, means happy, healthy communities. Education dollars are an investment in our community's vitality and future workforce.

It's time for deep, equitable and sustainable investments in Education and the legislature's "Student Success Act" is a good step in the right direction.

The current proposal however does not make the largest and most profitable businesses equal partners in fully funding education, even when they are likely the greatest beneficiaries. The \$2 billion in revenue per biennium that is projected is only about half of what we need to support our state's education system. Arguably more funding is needed and that requires that business of all sizes contribute their equitable share. Complete reporting asks that the largest corporations doing business Oregon report their Oregon sales so that we might capture another \$200 million. That's amount of money that is not currently being collected and could be used to expand on the ideas listed in the "Student Success Act".

An additional billion dollars provides funding for programs like Career Pathways to expand college access to underserved communities or expanding entrepreneurship programs and CTE education at community colleges. These programs are necessary to assure our young people are best staged for success in today's world. In businesses like mine, we need employees who have more than a high school degree.

Expansion of education support must include making college more affordable and accessible, as well as supporting K-12 education. For example a \$105 million is needed to fully fund Oregon Opportunity Grants providing need financial support for an addition \$25,000 student who are denied each year for the lack funding.

In closing, I would urge the committee to support the Modified CAT1 and find ways to capture more from the largest corporations doing business in our state. Please also support the "Student Success Act" with amendments for higher education funding, for tomorrow's small business owners and all of Oregon's youth.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark S. Kellenbeck". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "M".

Mark S. Kellenbeck  
Exit 24 Storage llc  
Phoenix, Oregon