

From: debk5402@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of [Deborah Stewart](#)
To: [JCSS Exhibits](#)
Subject: April 11 Hearing - Supportive testimony for HB 2019
Date: Thursday, April 11, 2019 4:23:47 PM

Dear Joint Committee on Student success,

My name is Deborah Stewart and I have been a resident of Beaverton Oregon since 1984. My husband and I raised two daughters who attended Beaverton public schools from Kindergarten through grade 12. I am writing to urge the legislature to finally fund education in the state at levels that all students deserve.

I lived in Oregon before the passage of Measures 5 and 50 and have witnessed for many years now the devastation those two measures as well as the overall anti tax attitude that now seems to dominate thinking when it comes to anything that is publicly funded. Add to that is the scapegoating of all public employees but most especially teachers and retirees in blaming education funding shortages and cuts almost exclusively on their shoulders. Make no mistake: cuts to and underfunding of education hurts the children in the classroom. This is time that cannot be redeemed "some day" when revenue "improves". Those individual students in those classrooms at that time don't have the chance to "catch up" what has been lost.

We as tax payers in every school district have the obligation to provide the best education possible. Tax payers include or should include the businesses that rely on an educated workforce. Businesses across the state should be expected to pay their fair share of taxes dedicated to education funding in the state where they do business. Too often in recent years I have watched businesses lobby for tax exemptions at the same time they are experiencing growth and profits. Businesses have also lobbied against tax measures that would improve funding for education in Oregon. I would venture that many businesses or their lobbying advocates have spent more money actively lobbying against funding measures than the actual tax might have cost them.

My husband and I have seen our property taxes increase every year that we have been property owners in the state. Education funding has gone up as well but has not kept pace with the number of students that public schools now serve. I believe that until a different method of education funding is in place that does not rely so heavily on property tax, the legislature must ensure that businesses pay their fair share of taxes to support the system.

I urge the legislature to raise the corporate income tax to fund schools. Do not give in to corporate lobbying efforts and instead do right by every current student and future student in the state.

Thank for your work on this effort.

Sincerely,
Deborah Stewart
8140 SW Aralia Pl Beaverton, OR 97008-6295