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**To:** [JCSS Exhibits](#); [Sen Hass](#); [Rep Schouten](#)  
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**Subject:** Testimony on HB 2019  
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Dear Joint Committee on Student Success:

It has been my pleasure to serve as a teacher in the Beaverton School District for the past 11 years. During this time, I have taught 4th grade, middle-school science, and ESL. I have spent a significant amount of time working with students from diverse cultures, varying socioeconomic status levels, and varying academic levels. There is one constant that I have found with all of these wonderful students: they ALL deserve more from their public education than what Oregon currently offers.

Our schools need adequate funding to provide smaller class sizes, more counselors and other mental-health professionals, safe school environments, exposure to arts and other extra-curricular activities, and so much more. Educators and legislators have known all of this for years. Our students can not wait any longer to receive a strong education. The time to act is now.

As a middle-school teacher in 2012, I experienced a year where my largest class was 43 students. The classroom could not physically fit enough desks and chairs to safely seat all of my students so several kids sat on counters. We had to cancel some of our most engaging scientific experiments because it was not possible to have supervision of 43 students as they mixed chemicals in a crowded room. The majority of their work was not graded with specific feedback because my total caseload was well over 100 students. Although I did the very best I could to teach those resilient kids, I went home upset each night knowing that our state's lack of funding was failing to provide them with the best education.

It's critical that you pass an investment package this year to generate enough funds for schools to fund the Quality Education Model (QEM). Although I am not able to attend your public hearing in person (due to parent-teacher conferences), I look forward to following your progress on this issue and can not wait to celebrate your accomplishments with you once the QEM has been achieved.

Thank you for supporting our schools,

Kristen Fouts  
4th Grade Teacher  
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