

**From:** [dianna.hess](#)  
**To:** [JCSS Exhibits](#)  
**Cc:** [david.williams](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony on HB 2019  
**Date:** Thursday, April 11, 2019 7:39:24 AM

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Good Morning,

I am Dianna Hess the Administrative Assistant to the Executive Administrator for Students Services for the Beaverton School District, the Vice President of the Beaverton Oregon School Employees Association (OSEA) Chapter 48 and Zone 1 Director of the Oregon School Employees Association (state board member), along with being a parent of 5 BSD graduates and 4 grandchildren in Oregon from pre-K to the 9th grade. I am writing this email to ask you to increase Oregon's investment in pre-K through grade 12 education through HB 2019. In my role for the Beaverton School District, I assist the Student Services department with managing and supporting the many programs that BSD has for our most fragile and needy students. Our district has seen increases such as emotional, behavioral and mental health issues in our children. I see this every year at our Extended School Year program which is a summer program for our Special needs students. I have worked ESY every summer since 2007. When I first worked ESY we were able to offer a 6 week program and now we are offering only 3 weeks to keep our students skills up. I know of some districts that have had to take their program to only 2 weeks, due to lack of funding. We have not been able to fund the needed programs as the state budget does not adequately support the needs of all of our students.

I was able to go to Sheri Schouten and Mark Hass' offices in early March as a representative of the OSEA where in our visit we brought up that Special Education is not funded at the level that has been promised by the federal government. Oregon House Joint Memorial 3 urges the United States government to fully fund the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). We know that we had our legislatures support there and hope that the Federal government will follow through on the promised funding. However the lack of federal funding for IDEA means these costs fall to our state. A lack of increased education funding from the state has resulted in repeated reductions to Special Education and many other programs. We have Paraeducators that are being having to take on many of the teachers duties, as there is not enough funding to properly staff all of our special needs classrooms. We have new guidelines yearly on what the Paraeducators can and can't do especially when it comes to physical management of students, but the funding to train all of these hard working dedicated folks is not there. It has to come from somewhere. Our Special Education Department will be having to dramatically decrease it's budget for next year making it that much harder for our staff and students to get the supports that they need in the classroom. It is unacceptable that our state is continuing to fail the needs of our most needy students. We have Paraeducators that have given their everything to support our most fragile students but their jobs will be in jeopardy as funding teachers always comes first, yet our teachers cannot do their jobs without the Para's support.

In Oregon, we have focused on improving our graduation rates statewide, but our schools are not receiving the funding required to meet the needs of all the students within our schools. I am urging the Joint Committee on Student Success to increase funding for PK-12 education. Please, help fund schools as our children are our future.

Respectfully,

*Dianna Hess*

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