From:	mary provost
To:	JCSS Exhibits
Cc:	david williams
Subject:	Testimony of HB 2019- Investment package
Date:	Tuesday, April 16, 2019 4:56:17 PM

Dear Joint Committee on Student Success:

I am a fifth grade teacher at Cooper Mountain Elementary School in the Beaverton School District. I have been employed with the school district since 2000, and I have enjoyed working as a teacher at Cooper Mountain for many of those years. I have also worked in Palo Alto, California, and in Saipan, N.M.I. Every day, I teach the students in my room to the best of my ability. Students are coming to me with severely increased needs for social/emotional support. These needs *absolutely* have to be met for high levels of academic learning to take place. I work way beyond contract hours to achieve this goal, but it is disheartening that every year, the same difficulties and challenges with funding are revisited. Two billion dollars are definitely needed to invest in our students! No question. *Please show leadership and do something this year*! I'm paying attention. I see myself fighting against burnout; I would leave if I could afford to do so, not because of the kids, but because of the lack of political leadership which could provide monetary support; I am proactively planning an exit strategy, and I will not take on student teachers because being an educator is not being funded properly. I see passion dwindling in the eyes of my colleagues. We're all tired of funding issues, combined with higher class sizes, along with an exponential number of needs our children have, without the support necessary to achieve helping them. Class size needs to be smaller, not larger, for status quo to occur. I'm hanging on for the children, but there will come a time where I need to take care of myself and my family; when that is best achieved by exiting, I will. As teachers, we are organizing and we're ready to do something differently in order to promote real change. The time is *now* to do something! I seriously worry that there won't be enough teachers left to get the important job of education done. There *is* a huge difference this year, that you may or may not see yet; hopefully, you'll realize that by taking care of our teachers, we'll take care of our future. I beg you, please act!

Excellent education is a large investment of time and money, and stable high-level funding is absolutely necessary to provide for the many supports that our diverse community requires. **Please enact your investment package** to allow our children the human and material resources that they need each and every day. We owe an equitable and bright future for all of our students.

Thank you for your consideration and time,

Mary Provost