From: lenore johansen
To: JCSS Exhibits
Subject: Testimony on Senate Bill 3427
Date: Wednesday, April 17, 2019 3:32:20 PM

Dear Joint Committee on Student Success,
I am a lifetime Oregonian and am embarrassed by the decline in education and ashamed that my generation has chosen tax cuts over children. When I was a student in the BSD, prior to Measure 5 and Measure 48, I had access to academic opportunities, significantly lower class sizes, experiences and electives that have not existed for years. When my children were students in PPS we regularly experienced budget cuts that were never restored. I find myself wondering if my grandchildren should even attend public school. I have been and educator in the Beaverton School District for over 20 years and I am dismayed at the cuts we have endured over that time, but the last 8 years have brought turmoil and cuts I could never even have imagined.
In special education we have cut school psychologists; speech language pathologists; and instructional assistants while the social emotional and communication needs of our students have increased exponentially. The special education budget has experienced additional cuts because the cost of living increases have occurred while the IDEA funding remains flat. It feels like the budget cuts target our most vulnerable students and the impact has been devastating.
Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.
Thank you for working to improve Oregon's future.

Lenore

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