

**Senator Mark Hass**

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[Sen.MarkHass@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:Sen.MarkHass@oregonlegislature.gov)**Representative Sheri Schouten**

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[Rep.SheriSchouten@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:Rep.SheriSchouten@oregonlegislature.gov)

Dear Senator Hass and Representative Schouten,

Thank you so much for your service to our district and to our state. Your persistence and dedication to fighting for the people of Beaverton and all Oregonians does not go unnoticed.

I am writing to you to ask for you and your congressional colleagues to find ways to better sustain our K-12 public education system in Oregon. As the parent of a student at Greenway Elementary School, I am very concerned about the current and projected budget shortfalls for Beaverton School District this year and next. Like so many schools in the district, ours is a close-knit community of teachers, staff, students, and families who share the common goal of ensuring our kids the opportunity to thrive in their education. We see first-hand the dedication, thankless prep time, and genuine love for students that teachers in this district bring to their students every day. It is AMAZING, and reflected in the excitement, love of learning, and joy that my child brings home from school each day.

Yet, even the most dedicated and talented teachers and the most motivated and independent students can find it difficult to succeed when the ebb or unreliability of adequate funding support forces staff reductions, uncomfortably large class sizes, and inability to update buildings and playgrounds. This translates to less individual attention for each student, increased challenges for classroom management, and less time and resources available to cover mandatory Common Core requirement subjects. Given that the district faces a critical budget shortfall for the coming year, the importance of finding a solution for long-term, sustainable and guaranteed funding for our schools, teachers, and students has never been higher. The status quo is simply not good enough.

It is not for lack of devotion or want that teachers in our district feel strained in helping their students achieve their academic and social growth potential. It is because theirs is hard work, and the existing state funding model continues to subscribe to a "getting by" system, rather than one where public education is a high-priority asset not to be taken for granted.

As a registered voter, an Oregonian, and a parent of a current student in the district, I cannot stress enough how important it is for you and your colleagues in the state legislature to ensure the long-term success of our state's education system. The time for stop-gap funding measures is over. The time for putting in place responsible, forward-thinking and robust funding for public education is now.

With kind regards,

Chris Eide  
Beaverton, OR