

To the Joint Committee on Student Success:

I know more than a few legislators have worked very hard on coming up with a desperately needed and enduring end of our thirty year period of letting education funding dwindle. It sounds like HB 3427 is the most promising proposal that has come forth in recent years.

I teach computer science and statistics at two of the finest public schools in Oregon: The School of Science and Technology and the Health and Science School. These are schools focused on preparing students careers in fields that require a high degree of technical skills. We learned last week that due to budget cuts we are going to have to terminate these programs as we now know them and merge them into something new. I am sure we will do our best; however, I also feel that much has been lost and threatened due to \$35 million dollar cuts proposed by the Beaverton School District. Yesterday, we learned that the combined schools will go from 40.9 FTEs to 34.4 FTEs, a decrease of nearly 20%. I don't think I need to describe the effects of such a cut: Fewer course options, severed relationships with teachers who are being laid off or relocated, larger class sizes than the classes we currently have (some are at about 40 students), and greater loads put on teachers who are already at the breaking point. I can see that public schools will be losing teachers and students if something is not done this year.

I am very grateful that you are moving HB 33427 forward. I look forward to its passage so that here at SST and HS2 we can focus on moving forward with our plans to educate future doctors, researchers, engineers, programmers, security specialists, and the next generation of Oregonians.

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