To whom it may concern,

Decisions in legislature to defund an already depleted funding system are on the table. Many of us are upset by the fact that we see growth happening all around us in every other facet except for our funding in education. There seems to be money for new housing developments in every piece of green space there is and money for new schools in our district with no means to properly fund them? This is not logical and very upsetting.

When growth happens in a city and the excuse is there is no funding, this sends the message that the funds are indeed accessible but not being allocated properly. This is where you come in as our legislature. We need your help to make sure that bills get passed that support our common interest in properly funding schools because these decisions affect tens of thousands of children's and parents lives. That's the truth.

People are moving here from all over the world because of employment opportunities supplied by our big corporations. (Nike, Intel, Adidas, etc..) who don't seem to think or want to play a role in funding education. Tax payers are unwilling to pass laws that increase their taxes because they feel they shouldn't have to and that would only bandaid the real issue. The real issues are laws. Nothing can change without a government body who not only looks at numbers but the larger spectrum. People who have a progressive vision for the future and what it holds for our students. The power of education is endless and is changing all the time in light of new technologies, we quite frankly cannot afford to teach using methods of the past when technology was not so prevalent in our minds. We need proper funding and new ideas to move us into the future so that we can give our students a chance to compete in the new era of industry and business.

New forms of learning are being introduced such as experiential learning, turning libraries into think pods, and maker spaces in lieu of quiet reading. We must be properly funded to experiment with new models of education that could save us money in the long run. Now is the time to invest in the future because we don't know what it holds for our students but we can give them the best possible chance at succeeding in this unknown abyss with your help in passing education funding measures and bills that will get us out of the bottom of the barrel in terms of national rankings.

Oregonians should be ashamed to have such low stats in education with so many forward and progressive thinkers. Change requires a new approach to doing things that haven't worked in

the past. Decades of inadequate funding have put us in the bottom tier as far as graduation rates etc so we know that doesn't work. We actually have proof of that. What's the alternative? We need more funding if we want different results period...... Please make the right choice for our future together as it affects us in one way or another.

Regards,

Andrew Marsh Conestoga M.S.