

Dear Rep(s),

I am writing in support of House Bill 3427, as it would help fund public education in Oregon. Both my parents, myself and brother are educators. If you go beyond my immediate family, I have several other family members and friends who work in the school system. It is important that students feel accomplished and confident as they grow and progress with their knowledge and skills in school. One way this bill would help fulfill that is by having smaller class sizes and the appropriate number of teachers to grow minds. Educators help shape and define many futures; they are often the second person students see most in their lives; and it is vital that the teacher has the capacity and mindset to push students to their greatest potential and achieve their highest goals. This Bill would also promote equity by narrowing the gap between all individuals. Every individual learns at a different rate and the support that these students would have through the use of the funds would help ensure students do not get left behind.

As a second year Physical Educator, I continue to see all the students in my school and the struggles that they deal with. As resources reduce, the needs of the students will increase. I do my best to not only educate students on their physical literacy and the importance of a healthy lifestyle, but I see the social/emotional burden of a larger class size and the wear and tear is has on the teachers who are being asked to do more with less.

My current school is dropping from a 2.0 full-time teaching position to a 1.5 position. I have been a consistent and positive adult figure each and every day and it saddens me to think I will not impact MY students at the level that I want or not at all next year. As a Physical Educator, we are the social/emotional teachers in the school. We teach them how to problem solve, how to persevere and solve tasks in groups that they normally would not work in. Larger class sizes will effect the whole child in the classroom, on behavior and the ability to equitably deliver instructions.

It is vital that we create sustainable and adequate funding for schools in Oregon so children do not get left behind and know they are cared about.

Jared Johnson

Physical Education

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