

Dear Co-chairs Frederick, McLain and members of the Education subcommittee of Ways and Means

RE: SB5514 state school funding at \$9.6 billion

For all of the reasons outlined below, I am in strong support of expanded school funding as we acknowledge the essential role that schools play both in helping every student move to their potential as we emerge from the pandemic and in serving the broader community as the only "commons" we have.

As an educator for decades and an advocate for functional school funding, I rejoiced at the passage of the Student Success Act and better funding for our schools. But this pandemic has highlighted the need for still more funding to support the multiple roles our schools play in a just society. This time has shown us that, beyond the regular role of education, our schools:

1. Are the center for emotional and social support for most of our young people.
2. Have the will and flexibility to jump in in a crisis and provide not only ongoing education but also food and other basic resources.
3. Are a major vehicle for equity in our society.
4. Provide reliable structure in a day which allows parents to work.
5. Provide case finding for such things as familial dysfunction.

I listened to family outreach workers from TTSD this week as they talked about their role in family support - helping students learn through resolving the intense crises many families face.

I listened to volunteers with Packed with Pride - the TTSD food program and learned of how reliant families are on schools to alleviate food insecurity.

i talk with educators every day about how they are trying to balance intense remediation of learning challenges with equally

important social-emotional growth and nurturing of students who have suffered through this time.

I serve on the Local Implementation Plan committee for Metro's Supported Housing Services system of Care and have seen that schools may be the best framework we have for helping families that suffer the most from inequities in our society.

At the same time, educational advances are showing how to teach children better, and we need educators with the training, but also the planning and reflection time to take advantage of things such as the Science of Reading.

All of these observations point to a need for more educators, more flexibility, and more attention to the multiple roles that schools play in society.

The proposed \$9.1 Billion budget will force schools to make impossible choices between basic education and implementing the promise of the Student Success Act. It will not be enough for us to move forward in a better place than we have been in the past.

I urge adoption of a \$9.6 billion budget - there is no better way to move Oregon's future forward.

Thank you for your service,

Carol Greenough, Ph.D.
retired clinical psychologist