

CD 1 Ways and Means Road Show: Regarding SB 5514 (K-12 budget)

Hello, my name is Jessica McBride and I am a first grade teacher in the Beaverton School District at Springville K 8.

I have been with Beaverton for 5 years and we have lost so much due to budget cuts. My first year, it was my position! Thankfully I was able to find another. Every year, many good educators are cut and many aren't as lucky as I was.

The cutting of staff causes our classes sizes to go up year after year. Many of my students (especially after a traumatic year like this one) need to have as much individualized time with their teacher as possible. I can confidently meet the needs of all my students when I have 20, it is nearly impossible with 29 or 30.

Our elementary schools in Beaverton used to all have at least a full-time reading intervention teacher and two if they were a Title 1 school. These intervention teachers had additional training in reading and were able to help our students who needed additional reading support. As a first grade teacher, I can tell you how important strong reading skills are.

In one of the recent rounds of budget cuts, most schools now only have a part-time intervention teacher that serves only Kindergarten and first grade. Older students are no longer able to access the high-quality support of this professional and with our high class sizes, some are falling through the cracks.

With a fully funded budget, we can give our students the instruction and emotional support that they deserve. Small classes, particularly for our youngest learners, are going to provide the most for our students and society in the future. We can provide all students with a strong reading foundation to help create a more educated and engaged Oregon.

Our students deserve a fully funded budget of \$9.6 billion in the School State Fund. Thank you so much for your time.