

My name is Scott Perkins. I teach high school mathematics in Glendale, Oregon, a rural school district in Douglas County (Congressional District 2) which suffers from high poverty and recent job losses. 100% of our students receive free lunch – not reduced but totally free, due to the level of poverty.

Glendale School District has done much over the years to mitigate a lack of adequate funding. Its average teaching salary is \$10,000 lower than the state average. Its current superintendent is willing to work and be paid half-time, and spends most of his time writing for grants to get us extra funding.

Glendale High School became a charter school so that it could hire unlicensed charter teachers at a lower cost in order to provide classes other than English, Math, Science and Social Studies. Such teachers lack educational training, so their classes suffer from poor planning and behavior management.

Our students cannot provide their own materials. They have almost no opportunities for enrichment outside of school. Their homes are plagued with generational poverty, dysfunction, and sexual and substance abuse – school is their only escape until they are old enough to work and provide for themselves.

My school, and many like it, cannot adequately care for students' basic needs with a multi-million-dollar reduction in funding, and they cannot recruit and retain good teachers if salaries continue to lag behind other professions with similar education.

Our students cannot learn if they are hungry and stressed, and if their teachers are not adequately licensed and skilled. Do not cut this budget – doing so will only tie our hands and doom our students simply because they're poor. Thank you.