

Good evening members of the Ways and Means Joint Committee,

My name is Amanda Orozco-Beach and I serve on the Board of Directors at the Gresham-Barlow School Board. I want to first say thank you all for putting time in this very important work, which we know will greatly impact our communities for the next decade to come.

While I know that you all have very many aspects to consider, I know that education is important to every single elected leader anywhere. Kids are our future, and I bring a bulk of my recommendations to help and better our schools in the most equitable way possible for all Oregonians.

The first thing I would like to suggest for not just District 3, but to every public school system in Oregon, is to fund Student Based Health Centers in every single school district. Covid has taken a toll on student's mental health and it's important that all Oregon schools have at least one or some sort of alternative in their districts. Student Based Health Centers provide free mental health and dental services. As well as physicals or anything else our students may need. Poverty and mental health issues are not partisan issues, and I think that if there is one thing that these funds can do to help students post Covid, it's with Student Based health Centers in our public schools. I would also like to note, that GBSD doesn't have a SBHC and our estimates for one are at \$1.6 Million dollars. It's a low ask for all schools and I think it can benefit all children in our communities.

I would also like to bring up that during the pandemic, a lot of Oregonians needed to telework or go to school entirely online. As a school board director, I was upset to hear that we were sending out busses to neighborhoods with Wi-Fi hotspots so that students can do their work online. This situation could've been averted if we had municipal broadband for all Oregonians. Wi-Fi is a basic human right, and I think it would be a great look for Oregon if we championed municipal broadband to make sure that all Oregonians had access to Wi-Fi for not only work and school, but to also apply for jobs (a lot of applications are done electronically), find resources so folks can continue helping themselves independently, and keep in touch with families in times of emergency. These funds would be funds well spent that could help all Oregonians for generations to come.

And finally, I would like to suggest eliminating period poverty for all Oregon students by providing menstrual products in all Oregon public schools. It's crazy that we live in a time where period poverty is a thing, but I think that everyone agrees that poverty is bad and no one should be in poverty over a human bodily function that we can't control. It is an inexpensive act that can really make our state look good and that we care for our constituents in this aspect.

Thank you for listening to my concerns on ARPA spending to support Oregon schools and thank you again for this important work you all do.