

- * Thank you for the opportunity to speak
- * My name is Colin Phifer, and I live in House District 14 in Eugene.
- * I have a 4th grader in Eugene schools, where we have been blessed with outstanding teachers and staff.
- * I want to speak about school funding and the opportunities we have to make key, strategic investments in our k-12 educational system.
- * When considering funding, I urge you to make equity a central part of the state funding. Specifically, I ask for three investments:
 - * 1) Fully fund Measure 98 Career and Technical Education. More than 90% of students that complete 2 CTE classes graduate high school.
 - * 2) Reweight the school district formula and award more money to districts with higher proportion of students in poverty, English-learners, and disabilities AND – critically - make school districts accountable for these funds so these investments follow these higher needs students.
 - * And 3) support HB 2001 that protects students of color by giving school districts flexibility to protect teachers of diverse background, recognizing that statewide only 10% of Oregon’s teachers are from diverse backgrounds despite the fact that nearly 40% of students are non-white, and all available evidence supports that diverse teachers enrich and
- * Concerning the American Rescue Plan, I urge you to use the same equity lens and make targeted investments in education that impact the most at-risk students, and consider fully funding the Student Success Act.

Thank you for listening and thank you for supporting our state’s children.