

Submitter: Nani Chesire

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Education

Measure: HB5015

March 27, 2023

RE: HB 5015 Public Hearing

Dear Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of the Joint Ways and Means Education sub-committee,

My name is Nani Chesire and I have two children in the Portland Public School system. I recommend a \$10.3 Billion appropriation to the State School Fund because the school budgets already rely on the unpaid labor of parent volunteers, mostly moms. In my neighborhood, we pay steep taxes, are expected to work, donate to the school PTA and volunteer, and that is at the current school funding, which sounds like it may be cut.

My family has been impacted by school cuts that have already happened.

1. One of my children qualifies for speech services. However, due to a lack of service providers, they were only given a portion of their services (about 30%) of what they were supposed to. They are still on the program, but it's delaying the process by about a year. And if more cuts are made, I am afraid they will not even receive the services to finish through the school.

2. School is hard on kids. There are academic and social challenges. School counselors are a much-needed resource. My children benefit greatly from the support and skills received from this resource. I would be very disappointed to see this service cut.

3. The class sizes are getting larger and larger with the previous cuts. This is hard for kids, especially when they already aren't called on because they are not the loudest in the room.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely, Nani Chesire