

Submitter: Scott McClain  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means  
Measure: SB5506

I just attended the meeting at PCC Sylvania and was impressed by the number of people who wanted to share their views of the needs of our communities. I have worked in our local public schools as a teacher for 6 years. I like the work but I cannot continue to teach primarily because of the rising housing costs in the Portland area. We are undervalued and many of the proximate roles in schools, everything from bus driver to social worker to school secretary are similarly underpaid relative to the value we provide to our community. I think this will require an overall increase of state taxes earmarked for education. (This is the opposite direction from that of Utah.)

Please take a very close look at how to adjust the financial gaps in our system so that the low-paid teachers and others can stay in a career path for a longer time horizon. Also please allow more close scrutiny of the role TSPC has in overseeing the licensing of professional educators. Perhaps money can be saved by bringing ODE and TSPC under one roof.

Thanks so much!!