

Submitter: Teresa Foeppe

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Measure: SB5506

Last year more people moved out of Oregon than moved into our state for the first time since the 1980's. In part this is due to our subpar school system achievements including having some of the lowest graduation rates in the nation as well as low testing achievements in earlier grades. As well, inclusion for students with disabilities is almost non-existent. It is a yearly frustration when I have to advocate for my daughter who has Down Syndrome to get her as much time to be around typical peers as possible and now in 6th grade it is still minimal despite her not having major behavior issues, she speaks clearly and is potty trained. It is against federal law to keep her from being in the typical class even if she needed an aid. However, the budget in its current form does not allow for enough aides. The state needs to take a close look at our school performance, figure out how to improve it and start following federal laws regarding inclusion for students with disabilities.