

Submitter: Sonya Bastendorff
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Revenue
Measure: HB3221

Dear Chair Nathanson, Vice-Chairs Walters and Reschke, and Members of the House Committee on Revenue

My name is Sonya Bastendorff, I live in Portland and I have a 3rd grader at Hayhurst Elementary and a preschooler who will be joining Hayhurst in 2024.

I'm writing to urge you to support HB 3221 as an immediate means to better fund schools, teachers and support staff all across Oregon where local option levies are already in place or could be in the future. I believe that most people do not know or completely understand how their local option levies work in relation to receiving distributions from the State School Fund. However, like myself, I think many people would want the Legislature to act on behalf of the public good by supporting the revisions to the current statute that HB 3221 proposes—especially when considering that our existing education system in Oregon is, without a doubt, chronically underfunded. The idea that high-quality public education is a vital foundation of any economically successful nation or society cannot be overstated, it is a value that we must work diligently to uphold. As I read through the other public testimony, I reflect upon the importance of our schools and the many ways they serve our communities at large both in the present and into the future. As data indicates that more people are choosing to remove their children from public education altogether, whether into private school or home school, you, our leaders must engage every tool available to improve and support our public school system now. I strongly urge you to support HB 3221.

Thank you again for your time and the opportunity to submit my testimony today.

Sincerely,
Sonya Bastendorff