

April 21, 2023

To: House Committee on Revenue
From: Laura Blanke, MPH
Re: Support for House Bill 3221

Dear Chair Nathanson, Vice-Chair Reschke, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments in support of House Bill 3221, which would increase statutory limits on local option property taxes that fund school districts.

I am the parent of a second grader in the North Clackamas School District. Our family moved to Oregon from Texas in September of 2020 for a variety of reasons, and we feel so fortunate to now live in a state that prioritizes the health, safety, and needs of children.

Coordination between state and local leaders is crucial to ensure that community-level needs are understood, and that statute is crafted with enough flexibility to be responsive to meeting the unique needs of municipalities across the state. This legislation simply provides an opportunity for local municipalities, and those that are most familiar with the needs within their communities, to opt to raise additional resources to adequately support the distinct needs of students in their school districts. Expanding limits in this legislation does not dictate this change for all communities, but provides the necessary flexibility for voters at the local level to respond to the needs of their children and schools. Though this is a modest change in statute, it has the potential for meaningful impact in local communities and is a great step toward enhancing school systems.

I greatly appreciate your consideration of this important legislation and urge you to support HB 3221.

Thank you,
Laura Blanke