

Submitter: Michelle DuBarry
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure: SB5506

Dear Committee Members:

I am the mom of 2 fourth graders at Beach Elementary School in Portland. We are committed to our neighborhood schools, who are staffed by caring, enthusiastic, and expert staff and teachers, but the high class sizes, lack of resources, and lack of support for our kids' teachers has been extremely disheartening and weighs on us as every day. So many wealthier, white families are leaving our school or planning to leave - it seems like every day I talk to another parent who is formulating an exit strategy. People are talking about how understaffed PPS Middle Schools are and it scares them. It scares me, too!

Until a few weeks ago I didn't know that Oregon isn't required to fully fund public schools, as many other states are. This is absolutely shameful. But it shouldn't take a constitutional amendment to get legislators to do the right thing and fund our schools. Our teachers and children need the legislature to allocate AT LEAST \$10.3B to K-12 education. Otherwise I fear this downward spiral will continue, and we will all pay the price.

Sincerely,
Michelle DuBarry