

Submitter: Danika Van Wagoner  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means  
Measure: SB5506

Good Afternoon,

My name is Danika Van Wagoner and I have worked as a Behavior Coach in the Corvallis School District for 6 years.

I am here today to represent the many voices of our classified staff who are greatly impacted by the proposed budget for the State School Fund, and to ask that you fully fund public schools and invest in our future.

House Bill 5015 currently offers \$9.9 billion for the state school fund, and we know for the 23-25 biennium, we need \$11.8 billion to fully fund implementation of the QEM, and so I urge you to oppose HB 5015 as it is currently written.

Our district has reacted to the proposed deficit by non-renewing and cutting at least 50 staff positions next year, and I am one of those cuts.

The planned cuts announced by our district deeply cut classified positions, including dismantling our behavior response staff at non-title elementary schools, and reducing them at the others. Educators in our district are crying out for more support to be able to meet the vast social and emotional needs of our students, and Behavior Support staff (and other classified positions) are essential to being able to do so.

These children come to school not only to learn, but to feel seen, loved and safe. These kids can nearly break us but they also keep us going. Today these students are in our classroom challenging us, seeking care and connection, but one day when they are older they'll remember the educators that never gave up on them.

As a Behavior Coach my day consists of meeting kids where they are at and supporting them in building skills so that they can access school. This looks like:  
Staffing our school wide break space, which allows students to build skills in problem solving, self-regulation and identifying and communicating about their emotions.  
Responding to various crisis & student support calls  
Implementing social/ emotional learning groups in response to students' lagging skills (Problem solving, regulation, identifying emotions, friendship etc.)  
Leading neurodiversity affirming groups to support the unique needs of all students

While this does not encompass all that I do in a day, as you can see, the role of a Behavior Coach is vast, and due to the deficit in the current budget, this support will

look different next year. Who will support these students? One classroom teacher, one school counselor, one IA, cannot do it all. And they shouldn't have to.

Please see the attached links that shed more light on the issues we are facing in the Corvallis School district.

Thank you,  
Danika Van Wagoner

[https://gazettetimes.com/news/local/education/corvallis-educators-rally-for-funding-prepare-to-lose-jobs/article\\_9a272f3e-e614-11ed-aeb5-7337ab30a000.html](https://gazettetimes.com/news/local/education/corvallis-educators-rally-for-funding-prepare-to-lose-jobs/article_9a272f3e-e614-11ed-aeb5-7337ab30a000.html)

<https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/why-did-linus-pauling-middle-school-teachers-walk-out-matt-cates>

[https://gazettetimes.com/news/local/education/corvallis-middle-school-teachers-share-the-reality-of-school-violence/article\\_64649378-c90e-11ed-8393-3b58cf6699a1.html](https://gazettetimes.com/news/local/education/corvallis-middle-school-teachers-share-the-reality-of-school-violence/article_64649378-c90e-11ed-8393-3b58cf6699a1.html)

[https://www.kezi.com/news/teachers-at-corvallis-school-walk-out-citing-behavioral-challenges-with-students/article\\_0e4a0b72-b8aa-11ed-8b52-3fd8e1ce2d69.html](https://www.kezi.com/news/teachers-at-corvallis-school-walk-out-citing-behavioral-challenges-with-students/article_0e4a0b72-b8aa-11ed-8b52-3fd8e1ce2d69.html)