

To: Senate Committee on Education

From: Colleen Douglas, SLP in Multnomah County

RE: Support for SB 283

Dear Chair Dembrow and members of the committee---

I come today not just to share about the struggle, but also to offer simple solutions - ones that we all know will help solve the crisis' plaguing schools, educators, medical professionals, students and families. Many of which is shared in SB 283.

It is my core belief that if the state reduces the Student to Teacher ratio, increases pay for all classified and certified educators, across all education environments, hires staff according to this plan, and increases access to mental health in all school settings, then the state of Oregon will see dramatic improvements in the reduction of "Teacher/staff burnout" and inadequate staffing.

You will reduce the mental health and violent crises that are plaguing schools. These changes will decrease caseloads for medical professionals and increase positive outcomes for students such as, improve social skills, academic performance, graduation rates and improve the mental health for everyone involved - students and teachers alike.

Thank you for your time today and I encourage the committee to vote YES on SB 283. And then please don't make a plan, to analyze data, and talk about a plan.... but instead take action immediately and reduce class sizes, increase pay, and hire more mental health supports to address the deterioration of Oregon's educational system.

Education exists within an economy and there are basic steps politicians can take to improve the economics of the situation. So please don't abuse this power, but instead allocate resources appropriately and make real changes to support students, educators and schools!

Colleen Douglas

Speech-Language Pathologist

Multnomah Early Childhood Program