

Submitter: Elizabeth Maier  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Education  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3652

Dear Chair Neron, Vice Chairs Dobson and McIntire, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Elizabeth Maier, and I am a Language Arts teacher at Aloha High School (Beaverton School District). I am submitting this testimony in strong support of HB 3652, which would make class size and caseloads a mandatory subject of collective bargaining in all Oregon schools.

I teach three sections of Lit Comp 10, each of which has around 30 students. Though many teachers in my building are contending with even larger class sizes (35-45 students), reaching even 30 students effectively is a constant challenge. Lit Comp 10 is a graduation requirement, and there is no honors or advanced course option. Instead, we are asked to provide an honors option to students who wish to pursue greater academic challenge within the general Lit Comp 10 classroom. What this means is that within my classes of 30, I am teaching simultaneously to the students who have chosen the honors option and are working above grade level, students working at grade level, and students working below grade level (with reading levels ranging from 2nd to 9th grade, according to STAR test data from this year). Attending to this many differing needs is nearly impossible, and only becomes manageable when class sizes are reduced.

Research, including the Tennessee STAR study, has shown that smaller class sizes improve student outcomes, especially for our most vulnerable populations such as students with disabilities, English Language Learners (ELLs), and low-income students.

Please support HB 3652 in order to support Oregon educators in providing an equitable, high quality education for our students.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Elizabeth Maier  
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Aloha High School