

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

My name is Andrew Butterfield, and I am High School Ceramics Teacher at Portland Public Schools. 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.

In my classroom we have space for 28 students to work. For the past few years I have had an average of 32 students assigned to my classes. Every day I have to ask students to double up and share their work space. When classes are this large my ability to give students help when they need it is greatly impacted.

Overcrowding in one of my classes with 34 students hurts the three most vulnerable students I teach. They are students in our intensive skills class who have very acute learning disabilities. Because of the size of this class I regularly have to ignore all the rest of the students to help them process when disgusted. This situation would be manageable in a smaller class.

Please allow us to bargain for a reasonable class size cap in our next contract.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Andrew Butterfield
Portland Public Schools