

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

My name is Misha Pfliger, and I am Alternative Education Social Studies Teacher at Woodburn. 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 have 40 students in some of my classes, students who have struggled in life and need as much support as they can get. Having classes that size means students don't receive much meaningful instruction or one on one time with teachers. How can we continue to demand higher graduation rates when we won't fund schools enough to provide the resources to do so?

Smaller classes sizes are the silver bullet that we have all been looking for in improving student outcomes. Decades of austerity coupled with big tech billionaires and opportunistic "curriculum" and "testing" corporations have turned our schools from places where students receive sincere expressions of care to mindless factories of test scores and standards by shoving 3 to 5 dozen students in the same class. Students and parents deserve small class sizes to ensure their students have the best opportunities to succeed, no matter if they are poor or rich, black or white, man or woman.

Support teachers, support families , support students. We all want a better , stronger , more capable youth with all the opportunities to change the world, and that starts with small class sizes

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Misha Pfliger  
Woodburn