

Submitter: Michael Valenti
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 Michael Valenti, and I am a middle school science teacher at Mt Tabor in 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.

It is nearly impossible to meet the needs of all students in a science classroom with 35 kids. Despite all the tools we have been given, it is a daunting task and a disservice to all kids to be in classes this large. I am trying to get underperforming students up to benchmark while challenging talented and gifted students at the same time, and meet the needs of everyone in between.

I am in my 27th year of teaching in Portland and the job gets exponentially harder every year. I fear that educators will begin leaving the profession in larger numbers than we are already seeing, and there will be a shortage of incoming educators due to the lack of funding, under appreciation and large class sizes that we are facing.

I urge you to please support HB 3652 and its impact on students and educators.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Michael Valenti
Mt Tabor Middle School
Portland Public Schools