

Submitter: Sarah Kohn
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Education
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3652

Hello, My name is Sarah Kohn. I have been a public school teacher for over 30 years. I am currently teaching 5th grade in Portland. I am writing with the strongest urging to pass HB3652.

One of the greatest influences we can make on student success is class size. I am one teacher and I can tell you unequivocally that I am able to do a better job and students have a more meaningful experience when there is a manageable number of kids in a class. Last year, I taught 33 students. I was always scrambling to divide my time. Some students required the bulk of my attention and others did not get enough of me. My workload was overwhelming. Correcting papers and giving feedback in a timely manner, as well as communication with parents and having the ability to differentiate for all the needs of my students took longer or was not possible. I was literally in survival mode! This year I have 20 students and the difference is tremendous. I am able to grade papers, interact with nearly all my students, communicate regularly with parents and create a calm and focused work environment. All students deserve the opportunity to have access to their teacher, to receive feedback in a timely manner, to have their needs met. Class size is a critical piece of the puzzle. I really hope you will stand with educators and students and allow educators to address class size in bargaining. Thank you.

Sarah Kohn