

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

My name is Maximillian Battison, and I am a classroom teacher at Beaumont Middle School in Portland. 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.

This is my 8th year teaching and I have been fortunate to learn and grow with fantastic coworkers, students and community members. However, year after year I still always feel that I haven't done enough, simply because *I can't*. When I have 45 minutes, to meet the needs of 35 students, in a classroom built for 25 students, I have to make triage decisions.

I strive to find learning experiences that help all my students grow and become their best selves, but there are days when I cannot say more than a "hello" when they enter my classroom. When accounting for IEP's, 504's, the fluctuating social emotional needs of students, students are too often waiting for their needs to be met, making them not reach their potential.

Just recently many students were on a competitive band field trip, reducing my class sizes by 20-30% for one day. You could feel the difference. The energy was different. Students felt heard. We were all able to be more present.

Smaller classes are a clear, researched proven way of improving student outcomes. Teachers can better balance the needs of students and what is happening in the classroom. Students could get more daily support, get more feedback as the teacher doesn't have a pile of assignments to grade every day. A reasonable student to teacher ratio would cause a ripple effect of improving students lives and graduation rates.

Please, I urge you to support HB 3652 as it would have a tremendously positive effect on students, teachers and our communities!

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Maximilian Battison
PPS Teacher