

Submitter: Kori Bass
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 Kori Bass, and I am a 4th grade teacher at Lewis Elementary School in Portland Public School District. 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 been teaching for 20 years and in the last 7 years of teaching I have had the largest class sizes of my career. I have had up to 34, fourth grade students in my room. These students come to me with complex academic and social needs that have only grown since the Covid-19 pandemic. In classes this size, students do not get the individualized attention that they need and deserve. Unfortunately, everything takes so much longer to teach, resulting in less content coverage throughout the year. Students with behavioral issues in the classroom dominate the space and require the most attention. Other students' needs are pushed to the side because safety is always of utmost importance. Teacher burnout when teaching classes over 25 is inevitable. We are overworked. We can't continue to do more with less each and every year.

It is paramount that we start to look at the negative impact of large class sizes on educational outcomes. These impacts include lower academic performance and test scores, teacher burnout, increased student stress, and less individualized attention and support for our most vulnerable students.

HB 3652 does not require specific class size or caseload reductions—just a fair conversation in contract negotiations. Our students deserve this consideration. I urge this committee to take a real hard look at what has been happening in our public schools and take action now. We can't continue on the path we are on. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Kori Bass
4th grade teacher
Lewis Elementary School, PPS