

Submitter: Janet Olsson
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 Janet Olsson, and I am a math teacher at Kellogg Middle School 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.

For me personally, this is a very near and dear issue. My school is a Title 1 school and has a very large ELD (English Language Learner) population. My two largest classes are at 32 students. In one of these classes, 11 students have i.e.p.s, 5 of which are students needing SES support due to severe social and emotional needs. In this same class, 8 students are ELLs, 3 of which do not speak any English. Though I do my best to meet my students' needs, it is nearly impossible with this class size. Many of my students need 1-on-1 support that I cannot provide. It is defeating to work upwards of 14 hours a day and yet still not be able to support my students' needs.

This is my 18th year of teaching and the toll of large class sizes and limited resources is bringing me to a point in which I do not think I can make it to retirement in this field. I go to school each day with the determination to support all of my students' learning and help them grow. But when I go home each night, it is with a heavy heart because I know that despite my relentless work I still couldn't get to everyone in class. The needs are too great and the classes are too big.

If HB 3652 were to pass, then maybe my students and I could get a fighting chance. Maybe it would allow me to actually get to all of the needs in my classroom.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Janet Olsson
Kellogg Middle School
Portland Public Schools