

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

My name is Amy Curran, and I am Speech language pathologist at Beaverton. 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 an SLP for 25 years in the Beaverton School District. Over the years I have seen caseloads increase and behaviors and kids needs are more significant. My caseload is higher than the state recommended numbers. 70 if I was full time.

Smaller class size and caseloads is critical for students to be successful. When classes are large, teachers and therapists are less likely to have time to address specific needs. Quality of therapy is affected as therapists are forced to have larger groups which means less attention and slower progress. In addition, large loads and classes create burnout as teachers are dealing with more behavior issues.

Please please make class size and caseload a priority. Oregon kids, families, teachers and therapists deserve a better quality education.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Amy Curran
Beaverton