

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

My name is Evan Batson, and I am High School Science at Gresham-Barlow 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.

Class caps and case loads have been part of bargaining in our last contract, and were dismissed because the funding was not there.

I predominantly teach chemistry. I can not have upwards of 40 students in my classroom and ensure all students are working safely in the classroom without added support.

The students who are most likely to be distracted, and ultimately, the ones who may hurt themselves or others in my classroom are the same students who need extra reminders and extra check ins to make sure they understand what is happening.

Class sizes not only allow me to effectively teach science literacy, it also ensures I can demonstrate common sense safety procedures without worrying I'm leaving students behind.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Evan Batson
Gresham-Barlow School District