

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

My name is Karie Snodgrass , and I am 1st grade teacher at Gresham Barlow. 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.

Because I have extensive experience working with difficult children with learning issues and behavior issues, the majority of these students at my grade level are placed in my room. This was bad when it was 1 or 2 kids, but now it is 8 kids this year and 9 last year. As a result, learning is SIGNIFICANTLY impacted not just for those students needing the most attention and intervention, but the learning of ALL students is negatively impacted by these behaviors. In addition, because of two years of students repeatedly slugging me in the abdomen, I developed necrotizing pancreatitis (no high risk factors or lifestyle that could lead to it), that landed me in the hospital for 22 days, then surgery, and another surgery being scheduled after I continue to heal. I coded 3 times in the hospital and nearly died because of abuse in my classroom. Nobody does anything about it!!!!!! And finally, because of a lack of education for students during covid, the students are more than 1 year behind in most areas. It is impossible to meet the varying needs with more than 20 kids in the class.

Educator burnout is real, as is educator abuse by students

Please do something about too many high need students in one room and the out-of-control dangerous behaviors they exhibit that harm staff and students while hindering any possible learning.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Karie Snodgrass  
Gresham Barlow