

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

My name is Kaylee O'Neill, and I am a 5th Grade Teacher at Gilbert Park Elementary in the David Douglas 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 more students in my class this year than ever before. This large class size has had many effects on the learning and well being of me and my students! I have had to choose which elements of subjects and learning I feel are priority and only teach those. This is a choice I had to make because the kids need too much support than I could offer, and thus lessons take us longer to get through. Additionally, there is quite literally no space. My growing 5th graders have to stay in their seats all day because there is NO room to do activities and move about the classroom safely. I cannot stress to you how much this limited movement has impacted negative student behaviors. Lastly, this entire year, I cannot seem to catch my breath, and for the first time in my career, I want to be done teaching. It breaks my heart to experience how I am not capable of maintaining a high quality classroom on my own with this large class size. It also is disheartening to experience how exhausted I am at all times because of the constant demands on me to meet each student's needs. I seem to be repeating to my colleagues and loved ones "It's just too many bodies in a room."

In conclusion, I am urging the committee to support HB 3652 to support positive learning environments and doable class sizes.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely, Kaylee O'Neill