

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

My name is Kelsey Wilson, and I am an Intermediate (2-5th) Self Contained Special Education Teacher at North Clackamas. 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.

The classroom I teach in has 12 students with low-frequency, high-impact disabilities. Many of these students are still learning how to communicate using words, use augmentative and alternative communication devices, follow toileting or safe hygiene protocols, and adhere to behavior support and safety plans. Serving this many highly impacted students at one time is nearly impossible. Keeping them safe is nearly impossible—and yet, we are supposed to be teaching them.

How do I, as one human being, keep 12 students and myself safe?  
The short answer is: I don't.

Due to the increasing number of highly impacted students on my caseload, I have been injured more times than I can count. I have sustained:

- 4 concussions
- 3 bites (that broke the skin)
- 1 eyeball scratch
- Countless bruises and scratches

Every one of these injuries happened while I was doing everything I could to keep students safe.

My students are my number one priority, but I cannot keep them safe with the ratios we have. Students deserve an education where they do not fear getting hurt.

It is impossible for a student to receive the level of education they deserve when we are expected to support so many high-needs students at any given time. Free and appropriate education (FAPE) is the law, after all.

With each injury, it becomes harder to return to work. With each injury, I develop more trauma. With each injury, my level of burnout increases.

I strongly urge you to support HB 3652 because students deserve FAPE, and educators deserve to feel safe at work and be able to do our jobs successfully.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Kelsey Wilson  
North Clackamas