

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

My name is Diane Elliott, and I am 6th grade maths teacher at Greater Albany Public Schools. 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.

Our classes are 48 minutes long on most days. When students have time to work, after I've taught them the lesson I need to teach them they have about 20 minutes to work on their work. That gives me 37 seconds to help each student, when I have 32 students in my classroom. In one of my current classes I have numerous students that have IEPs, which need more time and attention. That same class also has numerous students that need more time due to English not being their first language. What parent wants their child to get 37 seconds of help with their teacher? None. That leads me to make the decision of who to help that day and who does not get the help. Even students that are gifted, they need more than 37 seconds of help.

Middle school is often where achievement gaps begin to widen, particularly for students from underserved or disadvantaged backgrounds. By reducing class sizes, we provide teachers with the opportunity to give more focused attention to struggling students, thereby reducing disparities in academic performance. Smaller class sizes can help bridge these gaps and ensure all students have access to the resources they need to succeed.

Students from disadvantaged backgrounds or with learning differences often require more one-on-one attention to succeed in the classroom. Smaller class sizes provide an opportunity for more equitable education by ensuring that all students, regardless of their circumstances, have the chance to thrive. Ensuring that each student receives the support they need can help close achievement gaps and promote greater social mobility.

I urge you and your colleagues to consider class size that support smaller class sizes in our middle schools, as they will have a lasting positive impact on our students' academic, social, and emotional development.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Diane Elliott  
Greater Albany Public Schools