

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

My name is Kim Kissinger, and I am Retired Middle/High School Teacher at Beaverton 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.

Throughout my tenure as a teacher I consistently had class sizes that were in the high 30's to low 40's. I even had one year where I had a 7th grade Spanish class where I had 47 students in my class at one time without any additional help or management assistance. I did not have enough physical space for students to safely maneuver and interact in my own classroom, so was forced to change room to the band room so students had enough room to learn. Students had to use the music stands as desks and we had to go to the library for assessments. Trying to safely manage that amount of students at one time, along with additional stresses and grading that comes along with it was not fair to the students' learning or me as the teacher. Class size is a huge factor in class learning. When my classes are smaller, the level of learning was always improved due to my being able to check in more frequently with my students during each class and being able to give more frequent feedback on their work and learning. When my classes were large, my students did not receive the best of me as I did not have as much time with my students and I was frequently burning out due to my grading loads. I had planned to continue teaching longer into my career, but could not do it full time anymore because I finally became just too burned out.

Smaller class sizes improve student outcomes.

Please support HB3652 to support student learning, to support teachers, and to ensure that teachers stay in the profession. Class size matters for everyone involved!

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Kim Kissinger
Beaverton School District