

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

My name is Kathrine Kraft, and I am a high school science teacher at BSD. 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.

At my school, caseloads and expectations are so high that I don't know a single teacher who doesn't take personal or sick time just to catch up on grading. We have the largest class sizes in the state, but since we're in a "wealthy" zip code, we're not allowed to bargain for reasonable workloads. Every student with an IEP, 504 plan, or limited English proficiency adds exponentially to our workloads.

My biggest class last year had 44 students, which works out to two minutes of attention per student per class period. If one child needs ten minutes of help, who is not getting what they need?

Overcrowding hurts our most vulnerable students the most.

Supporting HB 3652 will bring much-needed attention to this issue.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Kathrine Kraft
BSD