

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

My name is Jennifer Byrne, and I am a high school teacher at Gresham-Barlow. 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 regularly teach English classes with over 30 students, often as many as 35. Typically, the classes with the largest numbers also have the highest number of students on IEPs, which means less time for everyone to receive the attention they need to succeed.

Not only are large classes difficult to manage from a behavior standpoint, but the quality of feedback and personalized instruction also suffers when there are simply too many students in a class. The state's commitment to social-emotional learning (SEL) objectives rings hollow if they are unwilling to address large class sizes and caseloads.

It does not take a degree in statistics to understand that smaller classes benefit both students and teachers. Survey data consistently shows that smaller class sizes are a top priority for parents, who form the constituency base of the elected officials capable of fixing this problem.

I urge the committee to support HB 3652 as a first step toward lowering class sizes, improving the quality of education for all students, and enhancing working conditions for all teachers.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
*Jennifer Byrne*  
Gresham-Barlow