

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

My name is Taylor Gibson, and I am 9th Grade Social Studies Teacher at North Clackamas 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.

I am writing to express my deep concern about the impact of large class sizes on student learning and teacher effectiveness. Currently, I have 37 ninth-grade students in my class, and this number is simply unsustainable.

With 37 students in one room, it is nearly impossible to provide the individualized attention that many students need to succeed. Ninth grade is a critical transition year—students are developing foundational academic skills, adjusting to high school expectations, and often struggling with social-emotional challenges. When class sizes are this large, students who need extra support can easily fall through the cracks because there simply isn't enough time to meet their needs.

Additionally, large class sizes create an overwhelming workload for teachers. Providing meaningful feedback on assignments, managing classroom behavior, and differentiating instruction for diverse learning needs becomes incredibly difficult. The result is increased burnout for teachers and diminished educational outcomes for students.

Oregon must take action to reduce class sizes by ensuring reasonable limits and giving teachers a voice in the process. Investing in smaller class sizes is an investment in student success, teacher retention, and the overall quality of our education system. I urge you to support policies that prioritize sustainable class sizes so that every student in Oregon gets the education they deserve.

When classrooms are overcrowded, the students who need the most support—such as those with learning differences, English language learners, and students facing personal challenges—are often the ones who suffer the most. In a packed classroom, it's much harder for teachers to provide individualized instruction, check in with struggling students, and create a learning environment where every student feels seen and supported. By addressing class sizes, we can ensure that all students, especially the most vulnerable, have a fair chance at success.

HB 3652 is designed to address the challenges of overcrowded classrooms by ensuring that class size and caseloads are considered in contract negotiations. Research consistently shows that smaller class sizes lead to better student outcomes, including

higher engagement, improved academic performance, and stronger relationships between students and teachers. Additionally, reducing class sizes can help prevent educator burnout by making workloads more manageable and improving overall job satisfaction. By supporting this bill, Oregon has the opportunity to prioritize quality education and create a more effective learning environment for both students and educators.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Taylor Gibson
North Clackamas School District