

Chair Neron, Vice Chairs Dobson and McIntire

My name is Dr. Tammy Carpenter,

I am a member of the Beaverton School Board and here to support HB 3652 making class size and case load a mandatory subject of collective bargaining. As a school board member, I have seen first hand the value of bringing this topic to the bargaining table and I support making it a mandatory subject.

When educators brought our school board a class size proposal it provided valuable insights into the issues facing educators and students. There is no doubt that class size and case load is a central feature of an educator's workload.

When I was a part of bargaining, we did not end up agreeing to the class size language but because educators brought it forward and because those of us bargaining for the district agreed to discuss it we had more informed discussions. This meant we were making an active decision rather than a passive decision. Class size and case load proposals were a very important part of our discussion.

If those topics are not mandatory subjects of collective bargaining a conversation on them can be denied and excluded which does disservice to our communities.

As a school board member, I want this committee to note that this bill simply requires conversation if one party brings it to the bargaining table. There is no required outcome. The bargain and decision-making remain in the locally bargained process.

Lets listen to parents, the community, educators and students, who all consistently name class size as a priority and not shy away from ensuring it is a key part of this process. I encourage you all to join school board members like me, and educators in supporting HB 3652.