

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

My name is Jason Galbraith, and I am a Computer Science and Engineering Teacher, High School 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.

I teach classes that are between 30 and 60 students. If I do not do active teaching and only work with students, each student should get just over a minute of my time in a 90 minute class period. In reality, this means that the shy or quiet students probably get no interaction. My school has the largest average class sizes in all of Oregon (and three of the top four are in my district.) Five of the top seven middle schools for average class size are in my district. At our bargaining in Beaverton a couple of months ago, class sizes weren't even talked about, even with the potential for a strike.

Our district talks a lot about equity, but they only practice it in some of our schools. The budget is balanced on the backs of teachers at overcrowded schools, while pretending that all students are given the opportunity to be successful. The students in these schools who speak a different language, who are shy, or have a disability do not get a chance to connect with teachers, do not connect to schools, and are in grave danger of dropping out or harming themselves.

We should really have class size caps, but this is a good step in that direction. We owe it to all of the students in Oregon to have an educational environment where they can have the individual attention that allows them to be successful, rather than simply letting them be another face in a large crowd.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jason Galbraith
Beaverton School District