

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

My name is Jessica Ekegren, and I am Classroom teacher and ELD teacher 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.

As a classroom teacher, I would have years that I had 31/32 second grade students in my classroom with no additional support. It was unfair to my students that my attention had to be spread out amongst so many of them. At some point our role turns more into classroom management rather than classroom teacher when the numbers become so high. I did not have time to implement some of the best teaching practices I wanted to do because it was impossible to keep up with the amount of work and energy large class sizes bring.

As an ELD teacher the last two years, I have seen our case loads too big to have flexibility to support students who could use additional support. Our caseloads start large and we continue to grow throughout the year making it difficult to adequately serve so many students! Additionally these kids are also in large classrooms where the teachers are juggling 30 plus students and are unable to support their language needs.

Smaller classes allows all students to have their needs met

My daughter is lucky to have 15 kids in her kindergarten class compared to 25 kids at my school (same district). The amount of one on one support her and her classmates have been able to get have allowed them the chance to find more success.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jessica Ekegren
Beaverton School District