

Representative Susan McLain

House District 29



March 4, 2025

RE: Support for House Bill 3652 in the House Committee on Education

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

I am writing to you as an educator for over 42 years to express my strong support for **House Bill 3652** and to encourage you to hold a work session and pass it out of committee.

HB 3652 would make class sizes and caseload limits mandatory subjects of collective bargaining in all Oregon public schools. Passing this bill will require that school districts bargain on these critical issues and ensure that our Educators have an opportunity to advocate for safe and manageable working conditions and for classroom environments that are conducive to positive student learning outcomes.

As a teacher, I have seen firsthand how much class size impacts student success. I always wanted to meet a student where they were at and ensure they got to where they personally needed to be. My goal was to instill in them a sense of confidence in their skills and to stimulate curiosity and a love for life-long learning. My impact as a teacher was at times hindered or limited because of large class sizes that made it impossible to differentiate effectively for all students. Higher class sizes and caseloads limit an educator's ability to provide a safe learning environment and the personalized support that our students need and deserve. Class sizes must allow for individualized student attention, and a mandatory discussion on class size will ensure that a core issue for families and educators will always be addressed across the state.

I helped sponsor and introduce this bill 10 years ago when I was first elected to the Legislature, and I was so glad to see it pass for Title 1 schools in 2021. We have already taken an important step forward in valuing the importance of conversations around class sizes and caseloads, but it's well past the time to make it a requirement for all public schools in Oregon. The most important things to know about this bill are that **it does not require any specific decision, any investment or cost, or any particular outcome.** Those decisions will be left to the local bargaining process, just as all decisions are now. **This simply allows a conversation to occur rather than allowing it to be delayed or denied.**

Our students need individualized learning goals and interactions now more than ever as we work to recover pandemic-era learning losses. The Oregon Legislature has the opportunity to ensure educators have the tools necessary to help our students recover and thrive and I encourage your support. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to discuss HB 3652 in more detail. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan McLain". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "M" and "L".

Representative Susan McLain