

Submitter: RACHEL CRANE
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee
On Education
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB5516

I am writing in strong support of SB 5516, which provides crucial funding for Oregon schools. However, I urge the Legislature to go beyond the proposed \$1.16 billion increase and fully fund schools at the levels recommended by the Quality Education Commission (QEC).

The Governor's proposed increase, while a step in the right direction, falls short—by approximately \$2.2 billion—of what is truly needed to ensure our schools can provide a high-quality education for every student. Without additional funding, schools across Oregon will continue to face budget shortfalls, leading to larger class sizes, reduced academic and extracurricular programs, and fewer resources for students and educators.

Cost pressures, including inflation and rising pension obligations, will absorb much of the proposed increase. If we do not address these financial realities now, we risk undermining the progress and success of our education system.

I urge you to prioritize our students' futures by increasing the education budget in SB 5516 to fully fund Oregon schools at QEC-recommended levels. Our children deserve nothing less.

Thank you for your time and consideration.