

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

I support the passage of SB 5516. I have read the executive summary report written by the Quality Education Commission and understand that "enacting the fully implemented QEM" requires more funding than the proposed amount and to really enact the recommendations a total of \$13.526 billion is needed. The Governor's proposed increase falls short and I would support finding ways to make the total recommended.

Best practices outlined in the report included 6 components.

School attendance: I am concerned about student attendance which has been a major factor affecting Oregon's student success. Those hardest hit in our communities by poverty, homelessness, trauma, and other current events would be, I think, the most vulnerable to school absenteeism. Given our uncertain times I believe its imperative that our schools provide a safe space and school staff provide strong connections with these students in particular. This often requires increased staff outreach to students and families.

English language learner success: This again requires trained teachers to support our students who are not proficient in English. Teachers are hard pressed in full classrooms to reach all their students. Co teaching and curriculum support gives the primary teacher the opportunity to attend to all students, while a coteacher working with English Language learners gives those students the support they need. Foundational skills development and creating a supportive student learning environment go hand in hand. Professional development for teachers requires time, resources and money and this is imperative given how our students are struggling in math and reading. Teachers want our students to succeed! Let give them the support and resources they need.

These are difficult times. I am concerned about our students who need special education support services which has been in part funded by the federal government. Given the uncertainty of funding from the federal government, I believe it will be up to us to bridge.

I am grateful to public education teachers, support staff, teacher aides, counselors, therapists, office managers and principals and ALL the staff in each school working hard for our students. Having retired from working in schools as an Occupational Therapist I have seen first hand over and over the dedication and time all of them put into their school communities as well as the concern they have for students and the pressures they work under. I support this bill and the focus on accountability

using best practice recommendations. Our children are the future. I would hope we could come together and provide for them at the recommended 13.526 billion.