

Submitter: Tammy Steeves
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Education
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3360
Written Testimony in Support of HB 3360
Tammy Steeves
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Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Tammy Steeves, and I am an educator in the Eugene School District. I am writing in strong support of HB 3360, which would allocate Oregon's tax kicker funds to a school facility improvement fund rather than returning them to taxpayers. As someone who has spent years teaching in schools that are literally falling apart, I believe this is a critical step toward ensuring safe and functional learning environments for students and educators across the state.

In my time as a teacher, I have personally experienced the severe deficiencies in school infrastructure. When I taught at South Eugene High School, I had to bring in my own space heaters just to make my classroom bearable in the winter. Students often borrowed gloves and sweaters I kept in the room because it was so cold in the mornings that we could see our breath. Learning under these conditions is not just uncomfortable—it directly impacts student focus and engagement.

At Monroe Middle School, wildfire smoke infiltrated the building, and teachers were given small fans with filters taped to them in an attempt to improve air quality. The reality was that these makeshift solutions were ineffective, and both students and staff, including myself—who has asthma—were forced to breathe in hazardous air. The school also lacks adequate space for programs like band, forcing students to practice in areas never meant for instruction.

Even now, in my current role, I work in a repurposed school building with non-potable water, inadequate heating, and accessibility barriers that do not meet ADA compliance. After breaking my leg, I struggled with the heavy locked doors, steep corridors, and general lack of accessibility, highlighting yet another way our facilities fail to meet the needs of those who use them.

These conditions are not isolated to a few schools. In recent years, the roof collapsed at Kelly Middle School, and while repairs were made, many other schools remain in critical need of updates. While a 2018 bond helped address some facility issues, it was not nearly enough. Schools continue to deteriorate, and without sustained investment, students and educators will remain in unsafe and inadequate

environments.

HB 3360 presents an opportunity to prioritize education by ensuring that our tax dollars go toward making schools safe, functional, and conducive to learning. Oregon's students and educators deserve buildings that support, rather than hinder, education. I urge you to support this bill and invest in the future of our schools.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Tammy Steeves

Educator, Eugene School District 4J