

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

Laura Shinn Sutherland  
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3/20/25

Dear Members of the Joint Committee on Education,

I am writing to express my support for the Senate Bill 5515, and to urge your support as well. At the same time, I'm urging you, as a mother with a child in the Portland Public School system, to bring the proper levels of funding to children across Oregon.

In Portland, at my child's elementary school that happens to be just under the threshold for Title 1 funding, the class sizes grow, and needs grow, while the funding did not.

The proposed budget, while an increase, still leaves PPS with a \$40 million shortfall, which means the loss of 220 teaching and staff positions. Oregon has a chance to do better. I urge you to work toward a budget that fully funds our schools—one that prevents devastating cuts, invests in our teachers and staff, and ensures that all children, regardless of their abilities, have access to a quality education. Our kids deserve classrooms that are fully supported, not stretched to the breaking point.

I support this bill. This funding will make a huge difference, but I want to express that the funding proposed falls well short of what is needed to serve the education needs of our state's children. I respectfully ask for your support to not only fund support for Oregon schools, but raise the bar — especially as we face the prospect of losing federal funding altogether.

Sincerely,

Laura Sutherland  
Portland, Or