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On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee
On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB5516

When's the last time you went to a PPS school? Have you ever thought that the classroom DIDN'T need the aid that was there? That the classroom had too many supplies? Had school counselors that were literally NEVER in their office b/c they're so busy dealing with the constant needs of their students? I am appalled at our state's test scores. Recent data shows Oregon students are struggling in math and reading, with scores lagging behind the national average, particularly in fourth and eighth grades, and showing a decline since the pandemic. 48TH AND 46TH IN THE NATION FOR MATH. A significant portion of Oregon fourth graders scored "below basic" in reading, meaning they struggle to read and understand simple words. That is shameful. AND YOU WANT TO MAINTAIN THE BUDGET?!?! HOW IS THIS THE SOLUTION? Summer programs are being decimated. How can we offer additional or extended learning opportunities to close achievement gaps when we're actually maintaining or reducing our funding? We MUST invest in our students, our future. This is foundational to our entire society. How can we succeed, how can we grow, when we can't even communicate? When reading is a struggle? When we fail at math? When we put our children at the bottom of the priorities list?