

Submitter: Kelly Sloop
On Behalf Of: West Linn-Wilsonville School Board
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5006
HB5006

My name is Kelly Sloop and I am a WLWV School Board Director. I ask for support in funding our schools at current service and fund the special education gap for school districts statewide.

Our district, which serves around 9000 Students, is facing a \$15 million budget deficit. To address this shortfall, 60 educators & 21.6 support staff received notice their positions were eliminated 10 days ago. Every school in our district will be impacted by these cuts-even the health and well-being of our staff and students will affect student outcomes.

WLWV submitted reimbursement a total \$4.4 million over the last 2 years for HCD services. Reimbursement is 40% . The trend of significant increases for HCD is felt in school districts statewide.

Our district draws 3 % from our state school fund to bridge the gap for special education programs, aside from HCD.

Investing to fund special education would provide our district alone, \$4.5 million to bridge the gap..

Special education funding isn't keeping up with the support needs for our special education students. Investing in special education gives every student the opportunity to achieve a quality education and purpose in the classroom.

Thank you!