

I was registered to testify this morning (3/22); unfortunately, I was not able to share the information below. Thank you for your consideration of this testimony!

Good Morning Senator Lieber, Representative Sanchez and committee members, my name is Keely Nudo and I appreciate the opportunity to testify here today.

I am a Teacher-Librarian in the Scappoose School District and I am choosing to take the first day of my Spring Break to testify in support of HB5006.

In my 30+ years of teaching, I have never done anything like this before, but also in my career I have never been asked to do so much with so little.

Currently, in my school district, we are in a self-imposed spending freeze due to the shortfall of the transportation reimbursement from the state and this directly affects my library program by limiting my ability to order new and replacement books for my students. It is my hope that these emergency funds will help true-up the shortfall and we can go back to business as usual.

But, I also want to circle back to my statement of being asked to do more with less—in 2022 I became the District Librarian for Preschool thru Grade 12 AND the

Teacher-Librarian for Preschool thru Grade 6. Up until this time I had been a classroom teacher, but I left the classroom to become an Instructional Coach in my district. This was a dream come true for me as I had earned my Doctorate in Educational Leadership - specializing in Curriculum and Instruction to have just this position and I was thrilled that I would be able to achieve this dream in a district that I loved. Unfortunately, after a very short time this program was eliminated due to funding and I was left with one opportunity in my district, Librarian.

In the Spring of 2022, I enrolled in a Library Endorsement program and reinvented myself as a Librarian.

With the mandate of districts employing a Certified District Librarian, my position was created and the 5 FULL TIME Library Specialist positions were eliminated—Yes, you heard that correctly. I currently do the job, as one person, that 5 full time employees used to do. I am responsible for all district level tasks AND I teach almost 1,000 students a week in 3 different elementary schools and 8 different grade levels AND support the circulation of all their books. This is a completely unreasonable ask of an individual. But, I also want to tell you that I do my best to make sure that my students and colleagues aren't shortchanged in any way with my commitment to meeting our district motto

of: Cultivating passionate lifelong learners for an ever-changing world!

With that said, I think it is important to share with you that I am one of the 28 Amazing Educators for 2025 recognized throughout the metro area and a candidate for Oregon's Teacher of the Year through the ODE and Oregon Lottery, AND in September I went to my Superintendent in tears and told him I was going to have to quit because my job was literally killing me. I had spent very little time with my family in the 3 years I have been doing this job and I was at my breaking point.

At the same time, I know that my work in the libraries was directly impacting growth in our reading scores across the district and I had created a culture of literacy that excited our learners and empowered our teachers. Our profession can't afford to lose people like me because we aren't willing to invest in meaningful, impactful best practices.

And, this goes beyond our libraries, it directly impacts our classrooms and the heroes who work with our special needs students. We need to invest in our educators and schools today—so we have successful and engaged citizens in our communities tomorrow!

Thank you for your time!