

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

While I understand that the whole state budget is under strain due to the recent chaos in the federal government, I want to share that the state funding of PPS has been crucial to my family's ability to thrive in the city of Portland. So many people told us that Portland was a terrible place to raise children; that its public schools were not worth sending our children to. The common narrative is that families should abandon Portland for a wealthier suburb instead. But because of the dedicated, passionate staff and parents at our local school, Dr. Martin Luther King Elementary, we've found the exact opposite to be true. I am so fortunate to witness my daughter and her schoolmates thrive under the care and instruction at her neighborhood school. The access to art and music programs and free lunches has given my daughter the ability to enjoy her life so much more even while my family was going through a difficult financial time, and relieved the burden on myself and my husband while we were struggling. I know that is true for many families at the school. I give thanks on a daily basis that we have access to this school. I can't say enough on how much the school has meant to us.

Losing any of the staff and programs at Dr. Martin Luther King Elementary, would be devastating to my family and to the whole community surrounding the school. The school is a lifeline and resource to this neighborhood. In a city that has been hemorrhaging families from its public school system, every little bit of investment into its schools counts. Please consider allocating more funds to PPS in this next fiscal year!