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On Behalf Of: Hillsboro Classified United 4671
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee
On Education
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB5515

Testimony on Senate Bill 5515 – Education Funding Crisis
March 26th, 2025

Good Afternoon. My name is Alicia Infante, and I am the Political Action Chair for Hillsboro Classified United 4671, and I'm here to represent and speak for the 1,300+ classified staff employed with the Hillsboro School District. I am here to tell you that while we support this proposed increase in education funding, it is nowhere near enough.

The message I'm sharing today is a message for anyone listening that thinks of this increase as a solution, but let's be honest here—it barely keeps us afloat. It does not move us forward. It does not fix the crisis. It simply delays the collapse.

So yes, thank you for this increase. But let's be clear—this is nothing more than a Band-Aid on a bullet wound. It is astounding that we have a Quality Education Model, yet we have never made it a priority to fund education at the level of quality it defines. It's time to face reality, and commit to stable, long-term funding streams—not only so we are no longer dependent on what's left of the federal DOE, but so we can sustain our schools at the level they truly require. I want to live in a state where, when the QEM defines the funding needed for a quality education, we meet that number—not settle for less. Having a "QEM" should mean that's the bottom line. That's where you start, not where you hope to be some day. It's like going to the store to get tomatoes and trying to decide if you should get the fresh ones that the store recommends, or because you don't have the extra money, you buy from the rotten bin. Then you get sick the next day and wonder how it happened. I would ask you to ask yourself, is Oregon's Education System the rotten tomatoes.

It's time to get creative, fix the broken systems that need an overhaul, but most importantly, make education a priority in Oregon.

Thank you.