



Representative Hoa Nguyen
Oregon House District 48

SB 5515 - ODE BUDGET BILL

3/26 Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education

I am State Representative Hoa Nguyen, and I represent House District 48, which includes outer Southeast Portland and North Clackamas County. I am here today in my roles as an educator, school board member, and education advocate to voice my strong support for Senate Bill 5515. This bill is a critical step toward ensuring that Oregon's students have access to a **fully funded, equitable education system that prioritizes their success and well-being.**

As an educator, I see firsthand how adequate funding directly impacts student outcomes. Research consistently demonstrates that **increased investment in education leads to better academic performance, higher graduation rates, and long-term economic benefits** for communities. Senate Bill 5515 ensures that Oregon continues to invest in essential services such as **early intervention, special education, food security, and K-12 grant-in-aid programs**, all of which are proven to drive student achievement.

As a school board member, I am keenly aware of the fiscal constraints our districts face. Without sustained and adequate funding, schools struggle to **maintain small class sizes, provide necessary instructional materials, and retain qualified teachers.** Senate Bill 5515 appropriates crucial resources, including **\$330 million for K-12 grant-in-aid programs and \$137 million for the High School Graduation and College and Career Readiness Fund.** These investments will help ensure that our students graduate **ready for college and career pathways**, reducing future remediation costs and strengthening our workforce.

Additionally, **early childhood education is one of the most effective ways to close opportunity gaps before they begin.** SB 5515 provides funding for **early intervention services and early childhood special education programs**, which are essential in supporting young learners

before they enter the K-12 system. Research shows that high-quality early learning programs improve **literacy rates, cognitive development, and long-term educational attainment**, especially for children from historically underserved communities.

Beyond the classroom, **ensuring that children have access to nutritious meals is fundamental to their success**. Senate Bill 5515 also supports programs like the **Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)**, which provides healthy meals and snacks to **children in child care settings, after-school programs, and emergency shelters**. Proper nutrition is directly linked to **academic performance, attendance, and overall well-being**, particularly for students from food-insecure households. By funding these essential programs, this bill helps ensure that **hunger is never a barrier to learning**.

As an education advocate, I believe that **fully funding our schools is a matter of equity and justice**. **Persistent achievement gaps disproportionately affect students of color, English language learners, and students with disabilities**. SB 5515 provides targeted funding for early learning, intervention services, and youth development programs, addressing systemic disparities and fostering an **inclusive learning environment** for all Oregon students.

Moreover, this bill aligns with **Oregon's constitutional mandate** to maintain a public education system that meets students' needs. Investing in education is not merely an expenditure—it is an investment in our **state's future economic growth, public health, and social stability**.

I urge this committee to pass SB 5515 and demonstrate **Oregon's commitment to a fully funded education system** that prioritizes student success. Our students, teachers, and communities depend on it.

Thank you for your time and consideration.