

Submitter: Sara Schultz  
On Behalf Of: Children  
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee  
On Education  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB5516

My name is Sara Schultz. I have children at PPS. I'm writing in support of SB 5516 regarding funding schools in Oregon.

Education is a great equalizer and provides a safety net for our society. I was raised by a single mom after my father died suddenly and unexpectedly of leukemia when I was 7 years old. I had two younger sisters who were 4 years old & 7 months old. Public education provided all three of us with the skills and knowledge to move forward and take care of ourselves in life. I was able to attend public university on scholarships and pay for my education myself, ultimately achieving a doctorate in optometry. My middle sister is an oncology nurse and my youngest sister got her masters in teaching.

Education improves life outcomes, helps prevent crime, and is one of the greatest equalizers that we can offer to our children.

As a medical provider, I can attest that we need to continue to invest in education. We need the next generation to be capable and interested in continuing to be educated so that we have competent members of society to take on the roles that are going to need to be filled.

I worry when I listen to my patients and what they are saying - it feels like there's less and less people interested in higher education as the years go by.

Interest in learning starts when kids are young. It's important that we fully fund our educational system. It's a value that we hold in Oregon. Oregon schools are already performing at such an embarrassingly low level. Teachers and staff are stretched so thin. We need to invest in the students. They are the people who are going to take over for us when we are older. We are investing in their future, and we are investing in our future.

Thank you,  
Sara Schultz