



To: Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education
From: Consolidated Oregon Indivisible Network (COIN)
Re: SB 5515 – Funding for Education
Date: March 28, 2025

Co-Chair Sollman, Co-Chair Ruiz, Members of the JWM Subcommittee on Education:

I write today on behalf of the Consolidated Oregon Indivisible Network, COIN, a coalition of over 50 local Indivisible groups throughout Oregon that work together to advance important federal and state legislation and engage with elected officials to promote progressive causes for the benefit of all Oregonians.

We strongly urge you to fully fund education in Oregon per the recommendations by the [Quality Education Commission Report](#).

We get it: There's not enough money to go around. But we've also seen some pretty frivolous bills going through the legislature right now. At a time when the federal government is irresponsibly abolishing the US Department of Education and likely much of the funding that Oregon has relied on from that agency, we **MUST** fully fund education.

We truly have no greater resource than our children. They have so many responsibilities ahead: reversing the climate change we have caused, protecting a fragile democracy we have imperiled, and taking care of an aging population, to name just a few. We must equip them with the best education possible, from early childhood through post-secondary school.

We find the budget as expressed in SB 5515 inadequate to provide the quality education our children need and deserve. The testimony submitted thus far is full of evidence about specific programs that improve student success and build the educated citizenry we need for tomorrow. We don't have specific recommendations for specific programs. They all help certain populations and can't afford cuts. We can do better. We must do better.

Find a way, find the willpower, to amend this budget to meet the recommendations from the Quality Education Commission Report.

Respectfully,

Deborah Ferrer, The Dalles
on behalf of the Consolidated Oregon Indivisible Network (COIN)
www.coinoregon.org