

Submitter: Summer Steele

Committee: Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education

Measure, Appointment, Topic: SB5516

Cultural progress occurs with an educated society and the success of any state is contingent upon educating its residents. Oregon has many competing priorities, but unless we are in a state-of-emergency, funding and supporting education should be at the forefront. Oregon schools have not been properly funded for over 20 years and with each passing year, the results of this become more apparent.

I do not understand how we can continue to justify cutting educational costs when doing so creates a domino effect of harm. Perhaps if we had prioritized supporting education these last 20 years, those students, who are now adults filtering through the prison system, battling addiction, and/or living on the streets, would have been provided with the educational support and resources they needed early on to thrive now.

And yes, more money towards education is always a plus but I don't want to oppose this bill for fear that nothing will replace it. With the Department of Education at risk of being permanently dismantled, the onus is 100% on each state to invest in their citizens. Please vote yes on funding education.

Respectfully,

Summer Steele

Portland Resident