

Submitter: Haley Lehman

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1555

I am writing as a concerned Oregon parent and a licensed teacher with a Masters degree in education who is deeply dissatisfied with the current state of our public schools. Our student outcomes are not where they should be. Test scores remain unacceptably low, and incremental change is not enough.

I support a serious overhaul of how we fund and hold schools accountable. If the current proposal in Salem meaningfully strengthens accountability, ties funding to measurable academic outcomes, and ensures transparent reporting to the public, then I support moving forward. If it does not go far enough, then I urge you to make it stronger.

Simply adjusting formulas without guaranteeing real classroom impact will not solve this crisis. Funding must be aligned with clear, enforceable academic goals. Families and students deserve large pushes for measurable improvement, not just new reporting systems.

At the same time, accountability cannot exist in isolation. If we expect better results, we must ensure that resources are targeted to strategies that actually raise achievement. Smaller class sizes in early grades, strong reading and math instruction grounded in research, and consistent academic standards should not be optional.

Oregon students deserve dramatic improvement, not marginal gains. Please take bold action. Reform the funding system, strengthen accountability, demand transparency, and ensure that any investment is tied to real academic outcomes.

I am asking you to prioritize student achievement. Our children cannot afford another decade of stagnation.