

To Whom It May Concern:

Thank you so much for the service your provide for the people of Oregon. I can only imagine the number of requests and petitions for help that you receive on a daily basis and I do not envy the position of having to sort through each and assign it worth. I know that you will receive a lot of different perspectives volleying for a lot of different budgets as you make decisions in the days ahead I do not pretend to know the budget from all sides but I do know the experience I have had in the past three years and it is this I would like to share with you.

In November 2012 I was hired as an Extended Day Kindergarten teacher for the Redmond School district. I have now held this position for three years and have had the opportunity to annually give 26 students a full day kindergarten experience. I am currently funded through the Title 1A grant as a literacy intervention for at risk kindergarten students. My students are identified through assessments administered in the first months of school as those needing extra support in the area of literacy.

Each year these students surprise us with their potential for learning and growth. Every spring I am amazed at how they have worked to close the gap between them and their peers. A full day of kindergarten allows students who come in with few academic skills to have the time necessary in a classroom to build on what they have and to become readers and writers. The families I have worked with have felt incredibly privileged to have this opportunity extended to them and to see how their kids are able to experience success and truly love school.

I have seen the benefits of a full day of kindergarten for our neediest students. I have now followed my Extended Day Kindergarten students through to second grade and continue to be encouraged by the impact this intervention has had for them. They are continuing to read at or above grade level. I know that a full day of kindergarten would be highly beneficial for all students. With a regular education full-day setting kindergarten classrooms would have the time to meet the rigor of the Common Core State Standards and give Oregon students the best start to their years in public education they could have. That being said, the Title 1A grant will not be able to fund Extended Day Kindergarten next year as full day kindergarten has become an expectation for all students. So at least for our district we will either be able to offer full day kindergarten to everyone or to no one.

Please consider allocating at least \$7.5 Billion to education for next year's budget. I have seen first hand the difference this would make for our youngest students entering school for the first time.

Sincerely,

Katelyn Dover

Extended Day Kindergarten Teacher

John Tuck Elementary School