

To the Honorable Members of the Ways and Means Sub Committee on Education,

Since I cannot be there in-person to testify on Tuesday, March 10, I want to write you quickly about the current K-12 proposed budget of \$7.325. In short, I am very concerned that if we can't get to at least \$7.5 billion, we (Redmond) will be unable to even sustain our current levels of service and class-size (we're currently 2 days short of a full-year and have above-average class-size).

Furthermore, implementing full-day kindergarten might not be financially possible either and it would make it impossible to increase instructional hours.

The bottom line for Redmond students is that at \$7.235 we would be going backwards like we did in the recession; even though the recession is over. We have just recovered from a terrible 4-5 years; we can't afford to go backwards once more.

I know that money doesn't endlessly flow, but I firmly believe education is the single-most important investment we can make. Therefore, I humbly encourage you and your colleagues to join Senator Ferrioli and others and fund K-12 education at \$8.0 billion for the upcoming biennium. Doing so would allow us to make strategic investments by hiring more teachers to reduce class-size, fully implement full-day kindergarten, fully restore the school year, and provide improved special education services for our students who so desperately need them.

Thank you for your service to our great state. Your work is greatly appreciated.

Respectfully,

Tony Brown