

Dear Education subcommittee Co-Chairs and Members,

As you know, the Co-Chairs have proposed a K-12 education budget of \$7.235 billion. If passed, Oregon will take yet another step backward in meeting the QEM standards that provide a framework for a quality education in our state.

David Douglas is unique in comparison to other districts given several key factors: we have always maintained a fiscally conservative budget, over the past five years, we are enjoying a collaborative relationship between our union and district and together helped pass a \$40M bond in one of the most diverse and high poverty districts in the state. It's been sheer luck coupled with a lot of hard work by all the stakeholders. We are doing dynamic work around what our students deserve, and our schools possess many of the **Quality Indicators** that the QEM recommends. We are making gains in our HS graduation rates and with our second language learners. We have won almost every state-level award for leadership: from building principal of the year to Superintendent of the Year honors. Our union leadership's collaborative efforts and unique approaches to problem-solving are gaining state-wide attention.

However, all of this dynamic work will be in vain if the co-chairs budget is all that is passed.

At \$7.235 billion, even David Douglas will have to consider furlough days –a first in our district's history. We will need to terminate another 30 to 40 teachers. And there will be no relief to class sizes, such as in our all-day kindergarten classes, which are packed wall-to-wall with 30 students each.

David Douglas HS educates over 3100 students a day at the largest HS in the state. With over 70 different languages spoken, the class of 2015's only HS experience is with learning conditions in core classes of 40; elective classes with 45 and PE classes of 60 plus

students. They have been denied the one-on-one attention from a caring and competent adult that they deserve as we still have failed to restore 120 sections of learning opportunities that were eliminated four years ago.

Our best and most innovative teachers are whispering about exhaustion and wonder if they can make it another year. As a union president, I have helped seven people resign due to mental health issues exacerbated by the huge increase in class size numbers and sheer workload.

The currently proposed K-12 budget level will continue to devastate our future and widen the opportunity gap for our children. Oregon can do better. We can do better. We have to. Oregon's future depends on a quality, fully-funded education budget of **at least \$7.8 Billion.**

Thank you for your time and attention.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Gray

David Douglas EA President