

I am a parent and grandparent, a school teacher, and a property owner with a home and 10 acres in Washington County. I was raised here (Forest Grove), then raised my kids in Yamhill County, and am now again a resident and teacher in Washington County. I am alumni of PCC, WOU and Pacific U. I am a white, middle aged, college educated woman, with a joint family income of just under \$200,000. I want you to know my demographics so that you understand my generation and background when I tell you my position.

I have never been politically active, but am joining groups, writing and calling, making financial donations, and showing up to events. I plan to dedicate a lot of time to the next rounds of elections, on local, state and national scale because we are in a crisis. Significant, even revolutionary change is needed. Those who recognize that are going to survive, while those whose main focus is to keep things as they are and just mollify the progressives a bit are going to be left behind. It is not just the younger generation that is mobilized.

The Student Success Act that intends to provide funding for Oregon Schools needs more than your support. It needs to be expanded, and turned into stable, long term funding. I am glad it is here, and appreciate Nike's support, but we need more. Do you know that our students compete with students from places like Connecticut where they invest over \$16,000 per student? How can our students expect to be even nationally competitive and prepared, much less globally, with funding at half that rate? Our schools are in steady decline, and that is going to have a ripple effect on our economy and country as a whole.

I will give you a personal example. I started my career 20 years ago. The program got cut, so I moved to a different district. In 10 years at McMinnville SD, budget cuts caused my position to change, programs ended or were greatly reduced, four times. I gave up when I was cut to .67 time with yet another service cut to students. I started at Westview HS in Beaverton 4 years ago, teaching in the Social Communication Center serving "high functioning" students with Autism i.e. academically capable but with deficits in other areas that impede access and progress. I had 16 students and four instructional assistants then. Now just four years later I have 18 students and the program has been cut to one instructional assistant. At the same time the paperwork demands have increased. I now only spend about 25% of my paid time with students. They are making less progress as a result of my reduced time actually working with them, and due to the reduced ability to support them in their mainstream classes. Recently one of my seniors started talking about how much better it used to be, how much more help they used to have. This year's freshmen are struggling in ways that the current seniors did not when they were in 9th grade. I send a good portion of my students off to college- these are smart, creative students, often with very high IQs. But their functional, adaptive, life skills deficits impact their ability to make the most of that intellect. Instead of college, we will be connecting them to Disability Services more often, because we were unable to build the other skills needed to be successful in college. It is a waste of potential when we fail to invest up front in our students, and a greater cost to society in the end.

Please support stable school funding at a level that actually meets needs - see the Quality Education Model to start.

And do not come back with PERS complaints. That is invalid. It is like turning up the thermostat all winter while it was cold, then crying 'unfair' when the bill comes. You know the bill is there. The problems are not the average teacher retirement package. Another short story: 20 years ago my district paid \$358 monthly for medical insurance for my family of five. Now both employers each spend over

\$1600 per month for reduced coverage as compared to then, for just the two of us. We are not allowed to opt out, and the only ones benefitting are the insurance company execs who make absurd incomes at the expense of the rest of us, including our school system. Medicare for all would solve school's budget woes.

Please make real change in school funding a priority.

Thank you,
Corinna Tricarico