

**Joint Committee on Student Success Testimony Hearing  
4/18/2019**

**Pamela Kislak, Lever Architecture**

Re: Oregon House Bill 3427

Lever Architecture is an architecture firm based in Portland, OR. We employ 30 Oregonians, and provide architectural services to clients both with Oregon, and throughout the U.S.

As a growing professional services firm, we rely on Oregon having a strong education system -- from early childhood through higher education. Current funding levels for education are clearly not adequate. Large class sizes prohibit the individualization of instruction critical for student engagement and success. Limited curriculum outside of basic core curriculum inhibits students from realizing their potential as healthy, creative and innovative citizens. Inadequate slots in career and technical programs at community colleges leave businesses without enough future employees. Skyrocketing college and university tuition rates restrict access for many Oregon students.

Lever supports the business community increasing their investment in education through business taxes. Our state is at the bottom of all states in the level of corporate taxation, and this lack of revenue is reflected in the quality of our public education system being ranked in the bottom half of states for educational outcomes.

We urge the Legislature to increase corporate taxes by at least \$2 Billion to support investment in our state's public education system -- from early childhood through higher education.

Thank you for your consideration.