

From: [Shauna Kathleen Rakshe](#)
To: [JCSS Exhibits](#)
Subject: Thank you for the Student Success Act
Date: Sunday, April 21, 2019 11:47:24 PM

Dear Joint Committee on Student Success,

I want to sincerely thank you for your work in putting together the Student Success Act, and to urge you to complete the process by recommending stable, reliable sources of funding for Oregon schools.

I attended Portland Public Schools for first through twelfth grade (graduating in 2001). I went on to the University of Michigan and then got my doctorate in chemical engineering at Stanford ('11). **My PPS education was excellent preparation for future academic success**; my K-12 education was much better than that of many of my peers. I will forever be grateful to the many wonderful public school teachers and support staff who encouraged me at every level and in every way. Many of them put aside time after school to help me because I was curious and I wanted to learn. It was a time of terrible budget cuts--our entire music program was cut the year I entered high school; it limped on for three years due to dedicated parent volunteers until a new music teacher was hired--but despite the circumstances, our teachers never gave less than their all.

My husband and I moved back to Oregon from California after our first daughter was born. We now have three girls, and **it pains me to think that the Oregon public school system will be incapable of supporting my children like it did me**. My oldest is in second grade now, and the teachers at her school are just as wonderful as mine were. But they are all very scared.

Your work is so valuable for parents like us, who need to know what to urge our representatives to support. Thank you again, and please keep up the good work.

Sincerely,

Shauna Rakshe

Portland, OR