

OREGON EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

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Legislative Committee to Finally Consider Tools to Manage School Class Size

Legislative committee holds first public hearing on HB 4113

SALEM, OR — This afternoon the Oregon Legislature's House Business and Labor Committee will begin work on HB 4113. HB 4113 would ensure educators can advocate for our students by including class size as a mandatory subject of collective bargaining negotiations.

This hearing is at 1pm, today, Wednesday, February 7, in Hearing Room E of the State Capitol. It is a top priority of the Oregon Education Association as well as parents and educators across the state.

At the hearing, advocates for the bill will include prominent school leaders from across the state - both educators and school board members. *"As a David Douglas School Board member and mother, I believe that school districts must welcome educators' participation in setting district priorities."* says Ana del Rocío, *"I understand how critical class size is to the success of our students. I will continue to work with teachers and staff in our district to gain their valuable perspectives on how to manage classes so that students receive the individualized attention they need and deserve."*

HB 4113 is sponsored by Representatives Brian Clem and Margaret Doherty. *"After seeing how big my daughter Kohana's classes have been in school, I knew we desperately needed to do something in Oregon to help manage class size."* Clem says, *"HB 4113 isn't a silver bullet, but it is a step in the right direction. We need to put class size front and center in district negotiations. This is a flexible approach that emphasizes local, district-level conversations where educators and district leadership work side by side to find a path to smaller, more manageable class sizes to facilitate student success."*

Oregon has the fifth largest class sizes in the nation (NEA.org) and continually ranks near the bottom in the country. Large class sizes reduce the amount of individualized attention students receive, reduce the quality of learning, and contribute to many of the challenges our schools face.

[Oregon Department of Education's 2016-17 Class Size Report](#) shows extensive data on large class sizes. Almost 20% of Kindergarten classes have more than twenty-six students, 444 math classes have more than thirty-six students, and 53 science classes have more than fifty-six students.

OEA President John Larson says, *"We know class size has an incredible impact on our students' ability to learn and succeed in school. Currently, school districts do not have to, and often refuse to, discuss class size with educators when making decisions about crucial school programs, hiring, and budgets. HB 4113 would guarantee educators the right to advocate for our students at the local school district level."*

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