In April of 2012, Oregon PTA adopted a legislative policy platform that supports federal and state legislation toward the following goals:

- To ensure adequate level of school revenue.
- To ensure equitable distribution of school revenue.
- To prevent school closures and mandate an uninterrupted school year.
- To support efforts to ensure equal quality of education throughout the state of Oregon.

In light of these legislative policy goals and the following facts:
Current facts:

- Oregon currently is 7% below the national average in per student expenditures. We slipped below the national average in expenditures in 2001 and have not recovered according to the US census.
- Our class sizes are large and growing and our school year short and shrinking.
- K-12 funding dropped from 45% to 39% of the state budget over the last 5 budget cycles.

District Specific Facts:

- 344 teachers and other employees to be laid off in Beaverton Schools.
- Salem Keizer cutting $54 million on top of last year's cuts, huge class size is anticipated
- Springfield is facing school closures and cuts.
- Portland Public Schools was slated to cut 110 teachers, but a one time commitment from the City of Portland averted those cuts. Substantial cuts were made to administration, support and other PPS services for students.
- Forest Grove schools face over $3 million dollars in cuts, necessitating cut days and staff.
- Hillsboro contemplates an $8.15 million cut with loss up to eight school days, teachers, administrators and big classroom size anticipated.

As a member of Oregon PTA and a constituent I ask the following;

- Support policies that invest in public education for the future of our students and a healthy economy.
- Our districts have made millions of dollars of budget cuts year-after-year and sought for the most cost effective, efficiencies; **now** is the time to stabilize funding for Oregon schools.
- **It is past time look at all options including revenue reform and PERS reform to adequately fund K12-education.**
- **Oregon requires its legislative leaders to look past partisanship and bring forth real solutions that will enable Oregon to a have an equitable, full school year in order to produce students, prepared with 21st century college and career skills.**

PLEASE HELP OUR CHILDREN.

Cathy Bloome MS, OTR/L
Bloome Ergonomics Consulting, LLC
P: 503-913-5273
F: 503-914-0468