Dear Education Investment Board Members,

As a member of Oregon PTA, the oldest child advocacy organization in Oregon and the nation, I am writing to express my views on the state of education. Since 2003, K-12 in Oregon has declined as a share of the state budget from 44.8% to 39.1% today. This has occurred at a time when districts are facing new/tougher standards, achievement compacts and many districts are seeing increased enrollment. Oregon currently is 7% below the national average in per student expenditures. According to the US census we slipped below the national average in expenditures in 2001 and have not recovered.

Every year I believe we hit bottom and and it cannot possibly get worse. And somehow, every year it does. We cannot continue to not fund education and have a successful state. There is nothing more fundamental to economic success and livability than a strong public school system. I urge you to do whatever you can to turn this trend around.

Thank you for your attention.

Stacey Reeves
Skyline Foundation Chair and East/West Sylvan Middle School Foundation Board Member