

SUZANNE WEBER
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 32



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

3 30
June 8, 2021

Mr. Timothy Sekerak
Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Vote Explanation for Senate Bill 5514

Mr. Sekerek:

As I said on the House Floor, when I was asking the people of rural Northwest Oregon to choose me as their representatives, I promised to fight to ensure that public education was fully funded. This bill does not fully fund public education.

As a board member for the Tillamook Education Foundation, I have watched as teachers have had to ask our foundation to help them provide basic supply needs. Just this last year we were asked for \$671 for white boards and books, \$800 for art supplies, \$840 for chairs, \$189 for math supplies. That's only a few of the requests. The fact that our teachers still need to come to a private foundation to ask for basic supplies shows us that, despite a shocking amount of revenue in state coffers, the State of Oregon seems comfortable underfunding public schools.

This past year, teachers were asked to do more than they should ever be asked to do, and the 2021/2022 school year will still require a large amount of investments to ensure student safety and success. Given the record revenue available to us, and the immense need to help students and teachers make up for lost educational opportunity, there is absolutely no reason why we should not be fully funding education at the rate that teachers, school districts and administrators have requested. For that reason, I cast a "nay" vote on SB5514.

Thank you,

Representative Suzanne Weber