May 21, 2021

RE: SB5514

Dear Co-Chairg Tc 0.0 0.007 w 3.20.005 Tc 0(a)-3.3 (ir)-9>BDC -6.043 -1.1414
dgeting process. We are parents, community members, and professionals who are intimately
niliar with the budgeting process. We recently learned that Oregon's Legislature is planning
use one-time Federal relief dollars as an excuse to underfund K-12 education at the state
el.

lawmakers have made available to support summer learning and childcare - but this reflects a one-time, targeted investment versus a sustained, year-over-year commitment to adequately funding our public schools. We are facing a once in a generation opportunity to invest in our schools, students, and communities. At this critical time, t he Oregon Legislature should be looking to spend more money on education, not less. Oregon legislators need to step up to the plate and fulfill its fiscal responsibility   to students.

On May 19, 2021 revenue forecasts showed that the Oregon financial situation is far better than anticipated. House Speaker Kotek called the forecast "stunning" while Senate President Courtney labeled it "unbelievable". Simply put, there is roughly $1B more available that previously thought for the Oregon Legislature to consider. Fortunately, the State has had a model for K-12 education spending on its website for nearly 20 years. The Quality Education Model (QEM) is a fixture on the Oregon.gov website and lays out the funding level necessary to fully fund Oregon students. For the 2021 -2023 biennium, the commission tasked with setting the Oregon   QEM funding level   arrived at $9.994B . This is the amount that the Oregon Legislature should be looking to fund K   -12 education .

Oregon ranks in the bottom 33% of states in terms of K-12 education funding. Oregon students deserve better. They should not be shortchanged by state lawmakers looking to use Federal relief dollars to divert State education dollars elsewhere. Now is the time for lawmakers to step up and help Oregon families and Oregon students. The Oregon LegislatuTw 2.7077ue(on doa6 (i)13Td [(up a1