

May 8, 2014  
NW14-007

To: Northwest Council Members  
From: NW Legislative and Public Affairs Committee  
Subject: **GENERAL ORDER: Support for I-1351 Class Size Counts ballot initiative.**

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### **Background**

The State Supreme court has ruled in the “McLeary” lawsuit that class size is one of the issues that the legislature must address in living up to its paramount duty to amply fund public education. Washington State still ranks 47<sup>th</sup> in the nation in class size (teacher to student ratio) showing that the legislature has done little to date to provide satisfactory funding for public education.

Decreased class size is a clear, common sense factor in students’ attainment of an education. Educators universally favor smaller class sizes as one of the most effective ways to help students succeed.

A successful class size initiative will force the legislature to take on the topic of revenue reform to the benefit of working people, their families and the next generation.

The Class Size Counts ballot initiative has been filed and signature gathering is underway.

This initiative was endorsed by the Martin Luther King County Labor Council on April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2014

<http://classsizecountswa.com/research>

### **NW L&PA Committee Recommendation**

The NW Legislative and Public Affairs Committee recommends’ passage of this motion.

### **MOTION**

It is moved that: **THE NORTHWEST COUNCIL endorses I-1351 Class Size Counts ballot initiative and requests the E-Board to promote the initiative.**

#### **Pro’s**

- This will help both students in their educational development and teachers in there ability to meet state mandates for quality of public education.
- This will improve the quality of education of SPEEA member families.

#### **Con’s**

- It will cost money that will have to be reprioritized in order to support public education.