

PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Event: Friday rally and march joins *Students United for School Funding* to promote October 28th student demonstration.

Date: Friday, October 22nd, 2004

Time: 5:00 p.m.

Place: Pioneer Courthouse Square

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Friday rally and march joins *Students United for School Funding* to promote October 28th student demonstration.

The *Portland Peaceful Response Coalition's* Friday rally and march will join with local students in the campaign to ensure continued funding for schools and human services. The students are organizing a rally and march set for 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 28th, starting at *Pioneer Courthouse Square*. The purpose of this entirely student run and organized rally and march is to urge voters to "Stop the Repeal" and vote no on measure 26-64. Planned as a means to demand voters pay attention to what is needed to save Oregon's schools, students have worked hard to bring together young people from all over the county to show which issues affect and disturb them the most.

"We are turning our backs on our communities' most vulnerable people – the elderly, the women and children on low-income jobs and the students – and they are left with nowhere to turn," said organizer and student at Lincoln High School, Lila Zucker.

"Public education is only valuable because it makes it so there is equal opportunity for every child to grow up and be an asset to society." explained Evan Pulvers, another organizer and student at Grant High School. "If the quality of public education declines, so does the access to equal opportunity and society is worse for it."

If passed, Measure 26-64 could cut up to 8 weeks off the school year. With teachers forced to cut their curriculums short, students are concerned that they will not receive the education they will need in a declining economy marked by increasing offshore outsourcing and declining job growth. The students cite the need to cut over 1,200 teaching positions if the measure is passed, which would increase class sizes into the forties. They say classes with so many students make it virtually impossible to learn or teach. Students are already feeling the cuts of the current budget crisis. They say that more cuts to funding will devastate the counties' schools.