

Carolyn Tomei



Taking action for basic human needs.



April 24, 2013

Floor Letter in of Support HB 2456

To Members of the Oregon House of Representatives:

The Human Services Coalition of Oregon (HSCO) is writing to you today regarding HB 2456. The Human Services Coalition of Oregon is a coalition of over 80 organizations, all concerned about the future of our state and our most vulnerable neighbors and community members.

The Human Services Coalition of Oregon knows that HB 2456, which raises revenue by \$275 Million, is a key and critical piece of the budget proposed by the Co-Chairs of Ways & Means. The proposed budget has several components to create a balanced approach. One component is the \$275 million of revenue proposed under this bill. The proposed budget also includes savings from PERS reform, as well as \$125 million in additional cuts to basic health and human services. These reductions would come on top of three years of cuts to programs that keep our most vulnerable Oregonians safe and healthy.

Today, too many of our neighbors and families here in Oregon are struggling – struggling to pay their rent and put food on the table; struggling to make ends meet each month and keep their kids in school; and struggling to find and access affordable health care, mental health care, and more. We know that the systems and structures that help Oregonians to find the assistance they need when times are tough are stretched to the limit.

Without HB 2456, we know that human services will face even more severe cuts for children, families, seniors and others. The Department of Human Services and Oregon Health Authority provide critical health & human services that meet basic needs across the state. Cuts to these services will impact thousands of Oregonians, including:

- Seniors on fixed incomes;
- Children in the foster care system;
- Families with low incomes who need temporary assistance or child care;
- People with drug and alcohol addictions seeking treatment;
- People with physical or developmental disabilities; and
- Programs which protect public health.

The Human Services Coalition of Oregon (HSCO) is asking for your support of HB 2456. We know that as a state we can make choices that reflect our priorities and none more so than the choices we make about the budget. We want to live in an Oregon where we take care of our neighbors with low incomes, our seniors, people with disabilities and families with children. We're asking for your help to craft a budget that helps meet the basic needs of all Oregonians.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andy Smith'.

Andy Smith
Co-Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alison McIntosh'.

Alison McIntosh
Co-Chair