



Taking action for basic human needs.

February 11, 2015

Senator Mark Hass, Chair
Senate Finance & Revenue Committee

Re: Senate Joint Resolution 14 – Referral of Constitutional Amendment to People

The Human Services Coalition of Oregon (HSCO) supports the adoption of SJR 14 and its ultimate referral to the people for their approval or rejection.

The Human Services Coalition of Oregon (HSCO) is a statewide group of more than 80 organizations and individuals whose mission is to promote the dignity of all Oregonians through improved public policy and strengthened support for human services. We have been working to improve health and welfare services to Oregon residents for over 20 years.

Over the years, HSCO has supported changes which enable the Legislature to strengthen State reserves to enhance budget stability. As pointed out by former Representative Lane Shetterly who chaired the 2008 Revenue Restructuring Task Force, current law “*effectively prevents the state from saving money during the good times, to be available during the hard times.*” (*Oregonian*, January 27, 2010) Funding the reserves and a rainy day fund from unanticipated revenue during periods of economic growth is a prudent and a practical way to stabilize the delivery of critical services.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this bill.

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Cc: Sen. Brian Boquist, Vice-Chair, Sen. Herman Baertschiger Jr., Sen. Chris Edwards, Sen. Chuck Riley

The Human Services Coalition of Oregon (HSCO) is comprised of organizations and individuals from across the state who are committed to protecting and strengthening human services on which vulnerable Oregonians depend.