

February 24, 2017

TO THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS SUBCOMMITTEE ON GENERAL
GOVERNMENT

I am writing this letter in support of the Oregon Advocacy Commissions and its request for additional funding to support staff at the level of 3, rather than 2.5 employees. In doing so, I am certainly aware of the serious pressure that you face in allocating scarce resources.

My primary reason for supporting this request is that I have had more than one opportunity to observe the quality and integrity with which the Advocacy Commissions fulfill their mission. There is no dearth of individuals and organizations that come before you with a variety of legitimate interests, but the Oregonians the Commissions serve are often not the ones who are capable of personally reaching out to you for support. I am reminded of the concept of how it seems so much easier to attend to what is urgent / unimportant and miss that which is non-urgent / important. I ask you to do that which is important, which is to enable the Commissions to do what they are requesting.

The Commissions, and the Policy Analyst who is currently working with them on a 0.5 FTE basis, have done excellent work. Their research fills a critical role in learning about and connecting various communities. Without this research, it is difficult, if not impossible, to assess the status of all Oregonians and gauge whether to initiate or continue Commissions' projects.

Their request is modest and reasonable.

Thank you.

Trish Garner

State Public Policy Chair

AAUW of OR-American Association of University Women

Member, Public Policy Board,

AAUW

Garner37@mac.com