

Campaign for Oregon's Seniors & People with Disabilities

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INDEPENDENCE • CHOICE • DIGNITY

AARP Oregon

Advocacy Coalition of Seniors and People with Disabilities

Alzheimer's Association Oregon Chapter

Brain Injury Association of Oregon

Disability Services Advisory Council of Clackamas County

Elders in Action

Governor's Commission on Senior Services

Impact Northwest

Independent Living Resources

LeadingAge Oregon

Making Oregon Vital for Elders (MOVE)

Multnomah County Disability Services Advisory Council

Multnomah County Senior Advisory Council

National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Oregon Chapter

O4AD (Oregon Association of Area Agencies on Aging and Disabilities)

Oregon AFSCME Council 75

Oregon Alliance for Retired Americans

Oregon Health Care Association

Oregon State Council for Retired Citizens

Oregon Transit Association

Parkinson's Resources of Oregon

Residential Facilities Advisory Committee

Save Oregon Seniors

Seniors Serving Oregon Coalition

Service Employees International Union

United Seniors of Oregon

Urban League of Portland

March 24, 2017

Co-Chair Steiner-Hayward, Co-Chair Rayfield, members of the committee, my name is Kyndall Mason. I am the legislative chair for the Campaign for Oregon's Seniors and People with Disabilities. I am here today to talk about our support, as a coalition of organizations, for the APD budget.

The proposed cuts to the budget are the reality of consistently making choices that benefit a few, rather than doing what's right by Oregonians. The campaign opposes the reductions to rates for facilities that are facing increased costs because of the minimum wage and the near elimination of Oregon Project Independence.

Oregon has been a pioneer in long term care for several decades. As more people are entering retirement with fewer savings and we are facing a workforce crisis, we should be looking to make serious and smart investments in our long term care system, not cutting back. If Oregon wants to continue to be ahead of the curve in making sure Oregonians can live their lives with independence, dignity and choice, we cannot defund the very programs that make us great.

As members of the committee, you have heard testimonies from the agencies themselves regarding the state of their programs in this budget crisis that we face. So you are well aware of the seemingly insurmountable work that must be done to not just preserve but innovate in our long term care system. Now, you will all be hearing from real people, who are on the other end of these choices we make in the legislature.

As you listen to their testimonies, I ask that you consider the choice before you, which is to make sure Oregon remains a national leader in long term care, or starts to lose ground in that leadership, because we can't figure out how to make sure everyone is paying their fair share.

Thank you for your time today.