



Testimony on House Bill 2830-2

June 13, 2017

Joint Committee on Tax Reform

Jean DeJarnatt, RN

Co-Chairs Hass and Barnhart and Members of the Committee:

My name is Jean DeJarnatt and I am a registered nurse and member of the Oregon Nurses Association. I worked most of my career at the Marion County Health Department and today I'm here because I care about the future of Public Health Services in Oregon. I'm very concerned that because corporations aren't paying their fair share in taxes, we may be forced to make cuts to home visit services for children and pregnant women. I hope you will put vulnerable patients in our communities first.

The bill you are considering is a good development and I support it, but families like my clients' deserve far more and I hope the legislature will pass a tax increase that will be able to make a meaningful difference in our state.

For the population I serve, these cuts would be devastating. It would mean less public health nurses visiting women and children at home. Less home visits would decrease the prevention and vital education nurses can provide for women and children. Also, there would be fewer staff to provide case management for other vital community services families depend on.

We can't keep relying on a flawed tax system that puts far too much of the burden on working families and patients who are already struggling to get by. We need a revenue package that is significant and makes meaningful investments in upstream health outcomes. I'm urging you not just to raise new revenue, but to raise game-changing revenue that makes a significant difference.

Our patients and their families are counting on you. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.