

Dave Jackson

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HB 2830

My name is Dave Jackson thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today , I live and own an adult foster home in Central Point, that serves people with mental health diagnoses. I'm here because I care deeply about continued funding of these services. I'm very concerned that because corporations pay so little in taxes in Oregon, we are going to have to cut services affecting vulnerable people in Oregon. I hope you will put funding for these services first over low tax rates for big corporations.

The bill you are considering is a positive development and I support it, but Oregonians in need like the residents of my home, require far more just to get by, much less thrive, and I hope the legislature will pass a tax increase that will be able to make a meaningful difference in our state.

Though the perspective budget at the moment includes no cuts, it also includes no cost of living adjustments to our service payments in AFH . In real dollars this amounts to a cut, as the cost of doing business is increasing. This means that we will have the added cost of new physical requirements in our home by the state. By next year, those who haven't done so, are required to purchase locks for our resident's bedroom doors for instance. This comes at a direct cost to us. A ripple effect of services being cut elsewhere (such as public transportation) means getting coverage, so we can assist our residents with community access. Other changes to local mental health programs mean less opportunity for skills training, which will also fall on us, and minimum wage is going to go up meaning the cost of employees will go up as well. And as important, a reduction in programs results in our residents relying on other community resources like the police department, emergency rooms and emergency psychiatric services. We all want lower taxes, but further cuts to programs used by vulnerable citizens won't ultimately result in lower costs to tax payers. I'm urging you not just to raise new revenue, but to raise **game-changing** revenue that makes a significant difference.

My clients are counting on you. Thank you for your time