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**Joint Committee on
Ways and Means**

Sen. Richard Devlin, Senate Co-Chair
Rep. Nancy Nathanson, House Co-Chair

Sen. Betsy Johnson, Senate Co-Vice Chair
Sen. Jackie Winters, Senate Co-Vice Chair
Rep. Dan Rayfield, House Co-Vice Chair
Rep. Greg Smith, House Co-Vice Chair

To: Ways and Means Full Committee
From: Human Services Subcommittee
Re: HB 5003 Commission for the Blind

Representative Rayfield: “HB 5003 is the budget bill for the Commission for the Blind. The agency’s programs are focused on two main objectives: employment and independence for Oregonians who are blind or visually impaired. The agency provides employment and technology services, training, supported employment programs, and small business opportunities.

The budget recommended by the Human Services Subcommittee is \$21.5 million total funds, 68 positions, and 62.53 FTE. The recommended budget increases Federal Funds and Other Funds resources, while decreasing General Fund reliance. 16%, or \$3.5 million, of the recommended budget is General Fund; 7%, or \$1.5 million, Other Funds; and 77%, or \$16.5 million, Federal Funds.

The budget includes a \$2.5 million increase in federal revenue to provide the Commission with the resources to comply with new requirements under the federal Workforce Investment and Opportunities Act. This increase in federal Vocational Rehabilitation grant award will allow the agency to bring on new counselors and instructors to offer technology training, job site assessment, and workplace accommodations to additional clients.

The Human Services Subcommittee recommends HB 5003 be amended by the –1 amendment and be reported out do pass, as amended.”