

To those working hard and striving to help as many Oregonians as possible,

First of all, thank you for your work and effort towards supporting many Oregonians who are currently afraid and anxious during these times. I am writing to voice my concerns--concerns that many of my beloved staff members at my school are also likely having and concerns that every Oregonian whose job has been temporarily closed also has.

Personally, as an hourly paid employee at my school, the statewide school closures have affected my family and I. While I'm thankful to be living with family members who still currently have work, the lack of my income does bring in financial strain. That said, the terrifying aspect is that anything could change for my family's financial situation at any moment; for example, my father's job is connected to airlines and we have been worrying over potential layoffs or closings in that regard.

Thus, I ask that whatever is to come, please consider offering financial support to those who are affected by job closures.

In terms of those working in schools and affected by these school closures, I hope plans are made so that hourly paid school employees still have the means to get by currently and that, when/if school resumes, we will not be affected negatively. For example, one fear I have is that if hourly school employees were to be regularly compensated, we would then be required to work during summer as "make up time." The concern is obviously not due to the need to work; many of us would love to be helping students and the school as a whole. The issue this poses, then, is that a few of us use summer break to work a temporary job until the school year begins again where we return to our position at our schools. But, there are likely no flawless solution and so the least damaging option is preferred.

All in all, I hope that everyone who has been affected is able to get some form of financial support or relief for the time being. From restaurant employees to school employees, these current times have been frightening and all we ask for is a solution that provides us a sense of financial safety without punishing us for working in careers that had to be closed temporarily.

Thank you for all your hard work and for hearing us out.

Sincerely,
Christopher Lee
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