



E. WERNER RESCHKE
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 56

July 22, 2020

TO: Honorable Co-Chair Senator Rob Wagner,
Honorable Co-Chair Representative Pam Marsh,
Honorable Members of the Interim Joint Ways & Means Committee on General Government

RE: Opposition to Eliminating Funding for Lutheran Community Services NW

Good afternoon,

These are difficult times. Budgets are tight and state revenue is expected to be down. That is why it is imperative that the budget decisions this government makes takes into consideration not only short-term effects but long-term consequences. Looking at budgets as mere numbers, where every dollar is the same, is a short-sighted approach and will mean future, often unintended harm to Oregonians.

I write today in opposition to the Committee's plan to rebalance the budget by eliminating the grant for Lutheran Community Services (LCS) NW for drug abuse programs in Prineville and Klamath Falls. Klamath Falls has one of the highest poverty centers in the state. Part of what LCS does is to help young adults get the counseling they need in order to make the necessary course corrections early in life. A success at this stage helps a young person avoid juvenile detention and later prison. A dollar spent today with LCS saves multiple dollars in the future by not only fostering productive, law abiding citizens, who pay taxes, but also saving the state money with fewer incarcerations.

I implore you to take into consideration the long-term effects of eliminating this funding. If we say we care for the kids, and then eliminate funding to help some of the most vulnerable Oregonians, we are only lying to ourselves and to those for whom we serve.

Best regards,

E. WERNER RESCHKE
State Representative
Southern Klamath & Lake Counties