

To: Ways and Means Committee

April 17, 2021

Thank you for this opportunity to provide input in the budgetary process and for listening to constituent viewpoints.

**1. I humbly ask that you fully fund Community Colleges at \$702 million.**

Here's why:

- Rural Oregonians heavily rely on Community Colleges to provide affordable **access to education**. Especially for those students within our most vulnerable population.
- Every dollar cut from the Community College Support Fund must be made up by raising tuition or cutting programs and services, moving educational opportunities out of the reach of the Oregonians with the most need.
- Community colleges were not able to offer most in-person courses such as Career and Technical Education (CTE), so colleges have already faced significant revenue declines and budget cuts.
- Students need a minimum of \$200 million allocated by the Legislature for the Oregon Opportunity Grant to allow students to continue to access affordable education.
- Failure to fully fund Community Colleges will result in hundreds of staff and faculty layoffs and leave many Oregonians without jobs. This will of course impact and burden Oregon's Unemployment system.

**Please fully fund Oregon Community Colleges at \$702 million.**

**2. Please vote yes on HB 3007/SB 551 to Fund Part Time Faculty Health Care:**

- Students and faculty outcomes are improved when part-time faculty receive the pay and benefits they deserve.
- Many part-time faculty members are forced to cobble together a string of teaching positions at multiple institutions just to make ends meet.
- When instructors are forced to spend so much time juggling between jobs, students can't receive the access and support from their instructors that they need to succeed.
- This is a basic rights benefit that is long overdue.

**3. I am also in support of the much-needed Rogue River Wellness Center as it will provide access to healthcare for many local residents.**

Thank you very much for your time considering these points.

Sincerely,

Mary Middleton

Grants Pass, Oregon