

Submitter: Esther Friedman
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure: SB5506

Dear Joint Ways & Means Committee of Oregon,

Our state will be healthier, stronger, and more resilient when everyone has what they need to thrive. That's why I support the People's Budget—a clear set of policies and investments that will lift up our communities and strengthen the state by using a racial, gender, and economic justice framework.

The People's Budget includes smart, community-led policies, investments, and workforce supports to address systemic inequities in Oregon, including the Fair Shot Agenda:

Indigenous Language Justice—SB 612, SB 911
Reproductive Health and Access to Care—HB 2002
Stable Homes Homelessness Prevention Package—HB 5511, HB 2001, SB 611
In Defense of Humanity—SB 337, HB 2467

Key investments outlined in the People's Budget to advance immigrant justice, fix Oregon's broken public defense system, make childcare accessible and affordable, and many other important investments are not adequately funded under the Co-Chairs Budget Framework. Legislators must invest in communities now - rather than reserving even more revenue in our already strong and healthy rainy day fund.

\$10M to fully fund the Reproductive Health and Access to Care program at OHA - The Supreme Court's overturning of Roe v. Wade eliminated the federal constitutional right to abortion and set a dangerous precedent for who has the authority to make decisions for us about our bodies. At the same time, states across the nation are taking steps to ban and restrict access to gender-affirming care.

Please fully fund important immigrant justice programs such as the Oregon Worker Relief, Universal Legal Representation, and the Climate Change Fund. Our communities are healthier and more resilient when we have strong systems of mutual care that include all of us.

I urge you to support the policies and investments in the People's Budget and the Fair Shot Agenda.

Sincerely,
Esther Friedman