

Submitter: Marilou Webb
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure: SB5506

I work for the Oregon Health Authority. More specific, I work for the Office of Information Services. We are the information technology group that supports both the Oregon Health Authority and the Oregon Department of Human Services. We are there to support the citizens of our state that need assistance.

When there was a global pandemic, we showed up while the world went home to be safe. Some of us were able to work from home but not all. And these same people that help others get assistance, some of them need the same the kind of assistance. Some of our employees actually need assistance because they don't make enough money to support their families. How are people who 40 hours a week or more unable to support their families? These are not minimum wage positions. These positions are responsible for caring for our most vulnerable. I work in IT and I thought that I was doing well, but with the price of fuel, the price of food and my utilities going up I am not near as comfortable as I thought.

I make money, I put 16% away for my retirement because I am one of the unfortunate OPSRP/ Tier 3 employees. I am responsible to make sure I have a retirement plan. The state isn't looking out for my future, I have to. I can't put as much away as I used to because things are expensive. If I want to take a nice vacation, I get to go work a second job so I can afford it. I don't live beyond my means and thank goodness for that. But my husband is retired with a pension, so that part of our income is fixed, but our health care costs are approaching ridiculous even with insurance. My in-laws assist because our medical bills are not great and that is what insurance covers. But what about what they don't cover? We paid \$150 last month for blood tests. Some tests that the doctor has requested haven't been done because the insurance company knows more than the medical doctors do and hasn't approved them.

So while this is going on, I will continue to show up and do the best job I can for the citizens of our state. The same people who voted all of you into office. Please help us to get our management to take our requests seriously and bargain with us in good faith.

When money is being handed out and the price of everything goes up yet again, remember those of us who are here being part of the solution. Thank you.