

To: Joint Ways and Means

From: LoriAnn Bullis

Date: 5/4/2023

Re: Budget Roadshow in Salem

Good evening,

For the record, my name is LoriAnn Bullis. Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony regarding the funding of the place we call home, Oregon. I am a wife, mother of 6, and grandmother of 10. I hold a bachelor's and all but my thesis for a master's degree. While working towards my master's degree I began my 19-year academic library career as classified staff. Today, I manage resource-sharing at Western Oregon University's (WOU) Hamersly Library.

WOU is Oregon's original institution of higher education whose original and continued mission is the education of Oregon's K-12 teachers. However, Western's existence is in jeopardy because you, our legislators, have chosen to not adequately fund Oregon, its libraries, more specifically higher education.

To help WOU to remain open, our library contributed a permanent \$150,000.00 budget cut. My resource-sharing unit contributed 21 percent towards that budget cut. But that is not all! Our library will experience additional permanent staffing cuts. Beginning mid-June and every summer thereafter, my library will not have *any* faculty librarians on duty to provide reference, research, or library instruction services. And NO, we are NOT permitted to ask these faculty librarians to volunteer their time.

Imagine visiting any library, especially an academic library, and being told, *sorry, due to a lack of state funding, we have no librarians on staff to assist you*. Imagine the impact of that one sentence on Western's ability to recruit and retain students today and in the future.

Oregon and institutions of higher education like WOU can't wait. I urge members of this committee to invest in the workers and services today. This will ensure that Oregon's future is bright, and our libraries fully staffed and full of books.

Thank you,

LoriAnn Bullis