

Submitter: ARMANDO HERRERA
On Behalf Of: Oregon Resource Association
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure: SB5506

Hi, my name is Armando Herrera. I work for Managed Healthcare Pharmacy In Eugene, Oregon. We are a long-term pharmacy providing medicines to the adult care community. As I do not have a vested interest in the costs associated with caring for older adults and those in our community who find themselves vulnerable and unable to navigate life, I am writing merely from a humanitarian perspective. After attending the meeting before the Ways and Means Committee on May 3rd, I found that many concerns facing the committee are viable and need state funding and civic involvement. However, hearing people ask for money for things like better sidewalks, help for those fortunate to appropriate the opportunity to get higher education, and organizations interested in helping toddlers get a head start as they start the journey in life, I cannot help but think the cause I am writing you about is intrinsically as crucial if not more so than some of these endeavors. Refrain from misunderstanding after listening to the requests presented to the committee. I appreciate the value these interests afford our communities at large. However, disregarding the opportunity the care community avails to the individuals they serve could prove detrimental to the monetary aspects of society, both economic and humanitarian. At the heart of this letter is a request for those who provide front-line service to those served by nonprofit organizations that provide a safety net for older people and those challenged with debilitating disabilities. I implore you not only to maintain DSP funding but increase their wages. With minimum wages rising to levels equal to the front-line workers in the care industry, these folks will seek less stressful vocations and could provide a salary that makes it possible to care for those loved ones in their families. If these workers move on, there could be devastating ramifications for those who rely on their help. Thank you in advance for your consideration in responding to this letter's pertinent request.