



February 12, 2024,

Chair Meek and Members of the Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue,

Oregon AFSCME Council 75 strongly opposes SB 1542. We rely on our tax system to fund our schools, health care, and services for older Oregonians to keep our communities safe. The Corporate Activities Tax funds the Student Success Act, which supports numerous integral policies and programs for our state's public schools, including expanded school meals, student investment accounts, new literacy programs, and many others.

Oregon AFSCME is opposed to efforts to undermine the goals of the Student Success Act. Creating carveouts to the Corporate Activities Tax would mean lower funding for critical student programs. While there could be an increase of another state fund to backfill, that would only harm Oregonians by leading education investments to compete directly with housing or healthcare investments. Oregon's critical services are interconnected, and we must do everything we can to protect our revenue streams. Our members rely on fully funded revenue streams to provide public services across a wide range of sectors. Creating this potential competition between education investments and other public services would harm our members' ability to serve the state of Oregon. That's why Oregon AFSCME is opposed to both carveouts and increasing the filing threshold for the Corporate Activities Tax. Please vote no on SB 1542.

Thank you for your consideration,

Oregon AFSCME Council 75