



**Date:** March 21, 2025

**To:** Joint Committee on Ways and Means

**From:** Oregon Health Equity Alliance (OHEA)

Co-Chairs Sanchez, Lieber, and members of the Joint Ways and Means Committee:

On behalf of the Oregon Health Equity Alliance (OHEA) we are writing to ask you to prioritize protecting Oregonians and our immediate needs in your state budget, including social determinants of health that affect our everyday lives, from food, to housing, and health care access over all.

OHEA is a people of color-led collaborative, organized to center and uplift the wisdom of our communities of color through racial justice informed health equity policies and practices as part of the movement to dismantle white supremacy and shift the imbalance of power. OHEA serves Clackamas, Multnomah, and Washington counties as one of ten regional health equity coalitions across Oregon.

As we navigate the actions from the White House and GOP Congress are enriching billionaires but creating chaos, job losses, higher prices, and economic instability for everyday people. Oregonians need you to protect us by holding steady, and not overreacting to the chaos. Please refrain from making pre-emptive cuts based on speculation on what might happen in DC, which would simply be a signal to Elon Musk that you are willing to help cover the cost of billionaire tax breaks by sacrificing some of the most critical basic services Oregonians all rely on.

Please prioritize a state budget which protects Oregonians rather than adding to the chaos.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,  
Oregon Health Equity Alliance