

Submitter: Elizabeth Nelson
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5006

I am an OS2 with the Department of Human Services Child Welfare at the Portland East Branch.

I am submitting testimony today to ask you to prioritize the people who make Oregon work. To do this I am asking that in this next State Budget you include funds to make sure that those who work for Oregon make a living wage.

Since 2003 State Workers pay has not kept up with inflation the gap is almost 25% now. What that means is today 20% of State Workers across Oregon pay more than 50% of their take home pay for housing. An additional 13% worry about becoming homeless despite working full time permit jobs with the state. Today you have State workers using SNAP and Section 8 to be able to feed their families and have a place to live.

None of us went into State Work with the idea we would get rich but we want to also not worry about how we are going to make ends meet while working a full time job.

While you build the state budget, we call on you not to forget that without State Workers also no State program or service would happen. Most of us love our jobs or we would not be here but we need a fair living wage.