

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

To: Joint Ways and Means Committee

From: Carrie Paavola

RE: Ways and Means Roadshow - [Bargaining for our future]

Dear Co-Chairs Lieber and Sanchez, and members of the committee.

My name is Carrie Paavola and I am a Clatsop County resident, I've been a PSW since 2020, I'm a supporting SEIU 503 union member.

I am testifying today to ask you to prioritize protecting Oregonians and our immediate needs in our state budget, including supporting our needs to continue to be the voice for those who are voiceless, our clients who depend on us, we give our clients much needed hope in an uncertain world, we need a good living wage, healthcare, PTO, please support us in keeping what we've been working so hard at to make a better life for ourselves and our clients, please provide continued ways for more funding to keep all of our programs thriving and being able to have more opportunities for funding at hand for a brighter future.

I was born to be a caregiver, I've been passionate in helping others since I was a young child, the heartwarming feeling I get from supporting others in need is priceless, I'm so thankful for all the support that I get from SEIU 503 Union and from the State of Oregon to be of service to my clients, seeing them smile, and being supportive of them on difficult days is what I love most about my commitment of being a PSW, without my support, what will happen to those who are voiceless, this is a major concern of mine and I'm sure it's concerns other caregivers as well. I know your support in keeping our programs and funding going strong, will save many lives.

Should the worst happen in the future, Oregon has reserves, but we should cross that bridge when we come to it.

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

Thank you,

Carrie Paavola PSW