

Submitter: Mary Hennrich  
On Behalf Of: Invest In Oregon Families  
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5006

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

My daughter is a Special Ed teacher who unfortunately has Long COVID that is affecting her ability to teach full time. Although she is protected by her PAT/OEA union now, and therefore is still receiving health insurance, she is fearful that she may lose it in the near future if she isn't able to return to her full time teaching position due to the health issues she continues to experience. I was the founding CEO of CareOregon in 1994-2003 and never thought my family would need OHP/Medicaid. It turns out the both my daughter and son and his family have had personal circumstances over these past 30 years where they have had to rely for themselves and their families on Medicaid. It is a lifesaver for SO MANY and it breaks my heart to think that hundreds of thousands here in Oregon and millions nationwide may be without access to the lifesaving healthcare they need. I currently served as a member of the Universal Health Plan Governing Board and know that we need to TRANSFORM our healthcare 'system' but in the meantime, Medicaid is vital and needs to be available to the million+ Oregonians who desperately need it. I also fear that many hospitals will be forced to have major service cuts or even CLOSE without this funding.

I am asking you to focus on our immediate needs in your state budget. Protect Oregon Now by prioritizing investments in our families and communities.

Actions from the White House and GOP Congress are enriching billionaires but creating real harm in our state: job losses, higher prices, and economic instability for everyday people. Oregonians need you to protect us by holding steady.

As you build the state budget, we call on you to reject any new Oregon tax breaks for corporations or the ultra-wealthy. Please continue to hold the line against cuts to the most critical basic services Oregonians all rely on, even as unelected Billionaires like Elon Musk threaten them from DC. Should the worst happen in the future, Oregon has reserves, but we should cross that bridge when we come to it.

I also urge you to prepare for any coming economic downturn or federal funding reductions by doing what we know works to keep families stable: strategically investing in our communities and giving Oregonians more opportunities to thrive.

Please prioritize a state budget which protects Oregonians.

Thank you,

Mary Henrich