

Submitter: Stephanie Bekooy
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,

I'm a working single mom with two teens, and we rely completely on CareOregon for health care. This is one example of how important services are to Oregon families. We would be lost without this care. Neither corporations or the ultra-wealthy face the kind of danger that individuals and families face without a supportive infrastructure. Denying hard working families the safety that infrastructure offers just so that profits can be higher for people who don't need it is grotesque and immoral. It's not what our country should be about, and it's certainly not what Oregon is about. Please, keep on investing in our Oregon communities.

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,
Stephanie Bekooy