

Submitter: Paula Friedman  
On Behalf Of: A state budget to protect Oregonians  
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5006

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

As an elder in my 80s, I was managing, with Social Security, Medicare, and small amounts of freelance income after 'being retired' from my job, by living frugally especially since the pandemic struck. But inflation has made this impossible, these past three years. Any cuts to Social Security or Medicare would be a disaster for me and for others like me. Thank you for what you do to help us working and retired Oregonians and our families.

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,  
Paula Friedman