

Submitter: Betsy Zucker
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,

I am proud of Oregon's ongoing commitment to health care for all Oregonians, and strongly support the continuing efforts to provide affordable, accessible health care for all. Please don't throw our most vulnerable and marginalized neighbors under the bus in the attempt to balance the budget. I hope that the legislature will consider all options - including use of state reserves, and additional taxes on successful businesses and wealthy individuals, rather than cutting services. So many of my friends are dependent on OHP/Medicaid for essential day-to-day services, including home care, and their lives and ability to thrive must be prioritized in the upcoming budget decisions.

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,

Betsy Zucker