

Submitter: Theodora Tsongas
On Behalf Of: Protect Oregon Now
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5006

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

The health of our people, all of us, must be high on the list of priorities for spending, especially as federal health agencies and funding are being cut to shreds. We must, as a state, act as the necessary fall back, to make sure and pick up at least where the federal government has reneged on its promises to address the health and welfare of all members of our community. Good public health practices save money! It is much more expensive to respond to illness than to prevent it. This will also keep us in better shape for future challenges that we know are coming. Thank you for your time and attention.

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,