

Submitter: Hope Cooper Hermens  
On Behalf Of: Reject Tax Cuts for the Wealthy and Corporations  
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5006

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

Please continue to support Medicaid services in Oregon. OHP helps me take care of my unique family. I have one child who is trans and even though our country is currently filled with so much irrational hatred and fear; our state has so far stood up for humanity. Please keep the services that help take care of my child. These services help my child who has had enough pain already in their young life. My second child has their own issues which we are working on probably for the rest of our life. My daughter is level 3 autistic. She has limited speech and severe behavioral issues. This caused me to leave work during the pandemic and I haven't been able to return since. Medicaid is covering her pull ups and the doctors and dentists visits she needs. It also covers the medication she needs to help keep her regulated. The expense of all of these would be too much for my family. Please protect these services. Also please protect education services for our children. My daughter is in a special education school and has made amazing progress by getting her speech, ot, and behavioral therapy at the same place as her reading and writing skills. This has improved things for her greatly. She's started talking so much more than she did previously.

Please Protect Oregon Now by prioritizing investments in our families and communities.

As you build the state budget, I hope you will reject any new Oregon tax breaks for corporations or the ultra-wealthy. Actions in DC are creating harm and uncertainty but in Oregon we need to invest in opportunities for working families. Oregonians need well funded schools, health plans, good paying jobs, and other critical services.

Please prioritize a state budget which protects Oregonians rather than adding to the harm.

Thank you.