

April 15, 2025

Re: Testimony in support of House Bill 5006

Dear Co-Chairs Lieber and Sanchez, Co-Vice Chairs Girod, Gomber and Smith, and members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means

My name is Emalydia Flenory, and I am writing to urge your support for House Bill 5006. In particular, I urge you to prioritize fully funding public education at every level in the budget.

Oregon is one of the few states with a Democratic trifecta. We should be taking advantage of this socio-political moment, especially when the conservative dismantling of public education across the nation is at a dangerous inflection point.

**Fully funding public education in Oregon means investing in student basic needs and student financial aid programs, it means maintaining and improving public services students and families rely on; and it means demonstrating that we value our education workers by ensuring they are paid a fair wage.**

We cannot reduce or simply maintain the funding amounts we have historically allocated for education in this state. In the case of higher education—as we have seen with various budget crises across campuses—relying on private donors or raising tuition rates is not a sufficient nor a viable long-term strategy either. The state must intervene here and make big corporations pay their fair share in taxes. This will raise the revenue needed to meet this historical moment.

Oregon's education system needs stronger support, and lawmakers must take action.

Sincerely,

Emalydia Flenory, Eugene