

Submitter: Elizabeth Davenport
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5006

Thank you for coming to hear us today. This is essential to OUR work TOGETHER. We are all in this together. I am an REA & OEA member. I work and live in a multicultural and multilingual community that I love. I am a single mom of three children who attend our local public schools in the community I work in. I have felt supported by my community as a single mother and I have given back to my community in kind. I am a k-12 English language development teacher and help children learn English as their first language. I am proud to live in and serve Oregon, a sanctuary state. I serve many families and I am heartbroken that the community I work, live in, raise my children in, and find joy in, is falling victim to the collateral damage of our current political times. Every new president has their agenda regarding education and it has been made clear to all of us that: We. Don't. Matter. The forecast regarding our budget is grim. I would like to see my elected officials work together towards an allocation of funds to sustain our current system to the best of our ability. We are in a financial state of emergency. We need to make sure we have a sustainable plan in place as we move closer to the full range of this storm. I am pleading with my elected officials to ACT NOW. Look to our investors with COMMON INTERESTS LIKE OURS to help support our community. Reach out to new investors for assistance. Look to international partners for help. There are investors who have made their stance clear and will put their money where their mouth is, respectfully and firmly. Please DO NOT squander your seat and the ability to make your position clear regarding our communities. I pay my fair share in taxes and taxes are going up for me and many of our working people in this room. I am heartbroken to see my taxes, my investments in my community, be used to break up and dismember it. Please move quickly and take action toward looking to investors with COMMON INTERESTS locally, nationally, and internationally. When schools need to fundraise for our students we reach out to community partners and businesses with COMMON INTERESTS. I'm asking my elected officials to do the same. Thank you for your time.