

Submitter: Mark Esquierdo
On Behalf Of: Invest In Oregon Families
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5006

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

I am a 58 year old dad of seven year old twin girls one is disabled. Both go to Portland Public schools but are falling behind and require outside tutoring which is expensive. I work full time in retail produce for a local business (going on 20 years with New Seasons Markets). I have not had a cost if living wage increase in over six years. My wife works full time as well. We are having trouble making ends meet and I have a chronic cancer which requires frequent monitoring and medication. I feel like things are getting worse for working class Oregonians!!

It is crucial that you prioritize protecting Oregonians and our immediate needs in your state budget. Actions from the White House and Republicans in Congress are enriching billionaires but creating real harm, job losses, higher prices, and economic instability for everyday people.

Oregonians are counting on you to protect us by holding steady.

As you build the state budget, I 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,