



February 3, 2026

TO: Joint Ways and Means Committee

FROM: Our Children's Oregon

RE: State Agency Budget Reduction Options

Chairs Lieber and Sanchez, members of the Committee,

My name is Bridget Dazey, I am the Executive Director of Our Children Oregon. We leverage data and research to champion equitable policies and opportunities for every child in Oregon.

I'm here advocating for Oregon's 825,000 young people—those who wake up each day wondering if their future will include regular access to meals, a trusted adult at school, a liveable planet, and so many other basic needs. They're inheriting unprecedented uncertainty, and this body's budget decisions will either deepen their anxiety or demonstrate that we see them.

Our Children Oregon urges you to use every tool available: not just strategic cuts that preserve core services for kids, but disconnecting from federal tax giveaways that starve our capacity to invest, and tapping resources like the Education Stability Fund that exist precisely for moments like this.

It's about whether a child in Pendleton or Portland will have access to quality childcare and food while their parent works, or whether that family will be stuck without options and unable to work.

The lens you choose matters. A children's budget lens asks one question of every line item: Does this protect the next generation's opportunity, or does it mortgage their

future?

As a parent, I believe we should fight for every child in Oregon with the same urgency, strategy, and fierceness we would bring to protecting our own children.

Thank you for your time and efforts to improve outcomes for children in Oregon in this difficult session,

Bridget Dazey

Executive Director

Our Children Oregon