

Chair Broadman, Vice-Chair McLane, and members of the Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue,

AFT-Oregon is a labor federation representing workplace unions across the state in early learning, K-12, and across community colleges and public universities. Our 28 unions represent over 18,000 essential staff, instructors, faculty, and employees who support our students and are active in their community. We strongly support SB 1507 and urge its passage.

In 2017, President Trump signed a tax bill into law that was financially irresponsible. This reckless bill slashed taxes and revenue for ultra-wealthy individuals and mega corporations paid in part by deep cuts to social services that will impact Oregonians across the state. This bill doubled down its damage to our state because of our tax code's connection to the federal tax code. The hole in our current biennial budget and into the future is a true crisis that we need to address.

SB 1507 as written helps to plug some of the holes and stop some of the damage that Trump's bill is doing to our finances. This bill will prevent some hard cuts. It does not, however, prevent the legislature from *still* needing to make severe cuts which will impact millions. AFT-Oregon members are frustrated, frightened, and furious at potential cuts to HECC, ODE, DELC and other agencies that would impact our students and communities.

Cuts to **higher education** may lead to hundreds of layoffs across colleges and universities, raising tuition up to 10% at community colleges, 6.9% at universities, eliminating years of hard-fought funding for part-time faculty healthcare, reducing the availability of Oregon Promise and Oregon Childcare grants, and impacting rural folks who rely on extension programs and 4-H. In **K12**, Class sizes are already unmanageable for many education professionals and teachers, but these cuts will make teaching impossible and safety more tenuous. There may be millions of dollars of funding cuts for high-quality **early childhood** programs, including home visiting services, the ERDC, and preschool programs such as Head Start and Preschool Promise. These programs support children when it matters most—and they support working families who are doing everything they can.

From food assistance to behavioral health – state programs are important. Economies are built bottom up. SB 1507 keeps most of Trump's handouts to those at the top intact, and most of the rug pulled out from under us. AFT-Oregon urges support for SB 1507, **and** continued dedication to disconnecting from irresponsible tax giveaways while strategically tapping reserves to prevent destructive cuts.

Thank you,



Harper Haverkamp, PhD
AFT-Oregon