



February 3, 2026

Co-chair Leiber and Sanchez, and members of the Joint Ways and Means Committee,

For the record, my name is Casey Teeters and I'm a DSCS work at Discovery a kids home with DHS/SACU.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input as you move along the ways and means process relating to the budget reduction exercise the agencies presented to you last year. I want to highlight the importance of the SACU program and the devastating impact any reductions would have on the community.

I've been with SACU/SOCP since 2012. During my time with SACU/SOCP I've held multiple different positions and none are most important than DSCS staff. DSCS spend more time with the individuals than we spend with our own families. I have personally seen and done the following; we teach our individuals the basics day to day routine ie basic hygiene, communication, financials, a safe place to live, people (DSCS) the individuals can trust and rely on for in some cases for the first time in their lives! I have experienced individuals crying and begging not to leave our agency due to their health and safety worries, when DSCS staff are the only ones who keep and make them feel safe. It truly takes a village to make our individuals successful and we have a proven track record of making the individuals we serve successful!

We understand that the state of Oregon is experiencing instability and there are tough decisions being made. As elected leaders, it is your constitutional duty to balance a budget and with that comes the responsibility to also look at other ways to continue to keep Oregon a place where people from all socioeconomic backgrounds can thrive.

I'm here today to speak for the thousands of people we serve. Passing a cuts only budget this session without keeping the most impacted at the center of the decision making process will have extreme consequences. They are your neighbors, your friends, family, and most importantly, your constituents. I urge you to strongly consider using reserves to keep families afloat and spend more time thinking about making strategic decisions for the next few years.

With respect,

Casey Teeters  
Keizer, Oregon