



February 3, 2026

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

For the record, my name is Patricia Larios, I am Vice President of AFSCME Local 1246, and I work for Stabilization And Crisis Unit, as a Direct Support Crisis Specialist.

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.

As a Direct Support Crisis Specialist, I work directly with individuals of the ID/DD community. This group of individuals are one of Oregon's most vulnerable, who are experiencing crisis and have exhausted all other options. Many of the individuals we support struggle with communication, trauma, and advocating for themselves. The individuals need a safe place to live where they can express themselves the only way they know how, have their everyday needs met, and can get back to baseline so they can live a successful life. Without the support they need they can end up homeless or possibly die. It is very crucial we keep SACU fully funded to be able to continue to give these individuals the quality of care, support, and safe place to live.

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 am a voter from district 6, representative Andrea Salinas and 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,

Patricia Larios
Salem, 97305