



February 3, 2026

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

For the record, my name is Taylor Greene and I'm the Executive Support Specialist 1 for Special Housing, Crisis Intervention Stress Management (CISM) Team Co Lead and Secretary for the Employees Committee and I work at Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution.

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 Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution and the devastating impact any reductions would have on the Pendleton and Umatilla County Communities.

If EOCI would close, I would lose my entire income. I am single and have no other person to support me. My brother, mother, and aunt are also employed at EOCI, and they would lose their only incomes as well. There are very few, if any, other options to work that could pay any of us the same that we make in our respective positions now. This would cause immense hardship to me and my closest family members.

Not only would I lose any money to support me, but I would lose my health insurance. I suffer from a chronic illness that affects me dramatically on a day-to-day basis. Losing my healthcare would result in a poorer quality of life for me and loss of any care because I could not afford to pay out of pocket for my medications or doctor's appointments.

This hardship may also cause me to relocate from the place I have called home my whole life, in search of opportunities that have similar pay or benefits. Others employed here may also choose to do the same to be able to support their current lifestyle. EOCI is one of the largest employers in Pendleton, Oregon and surrounding areas. If people are forced to move in search of other pay, the local economy would suffer greatly. Less people around to shop or eat out would cause local businesses to adjust how they run or shut down entirely.

In my almost 4 years with DOC at Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution, I have found purpose and excitement for my life and future within the department. I had struggled a lot with finding a place and a career that I felt passionate and comfortable in. Being in this position that I am in, I have opportunities to inspire change and promote safety. I am involved in a lot of the events put on for the adults in custody. Events that encourage rehabilitation and pro-social behavior to help them be contributing members of society upon their release.

Please think hard about your decisions as I am but one person in this facility that employs over 400 people that would be affected by a closure.

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 the 2nd congressional district in Oregon, Cliff Bentz is my representative and I'm here today to speak for the thousands of people we serve. Passing 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,

Taylor Greene
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