

Submitter: Tom Keller
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1507

Co-Chairs and members of the committee,

Multiple federal training grants supporting undergraduate students have been terminated in the past year, depriving students of support in the form of stipends, tuition remissions, and internship placements. These programs not only enhanced education but also provided valuable work experience to help students launch their careers. The disappearance of these programs has been extremely demoralizing for students, who see their futures shrinking with the lack of investment in training and opportunity. Oregon needs to step up and fund higher education at a level that provides real opportunity to talented students and motivates them to prepare to become the professionals we need in our state.

As our voice in Salem, we are counting on you to reject some of the most egregious and costly tax breaks for corporations and the wealthy and prevent cuts to public safety, schools, childcare, and other critical services. That begins with voting yes on SB 1507.

SB 1507 helps recoup \$311.6 million in funding for programs Oregonians care about by “disconnecting” Oregon from automatically mirroring some of the most costly tax loopholes in H.R. 1, the disastrous budget bill signed by President Trump.

To be clear, there is more work to do beyond SB 1507. There is still a larger budget gap to close, and balancing the budget by slashing programs Oregonians rely on is the wrong approach. But one thing is certain: passing SB 1507 is a critical first step in addressing the budget crisis created by H.R. 1.

The decision before you and your colleagues this session should be clear: Prioritize protecting Oregon families, not further enriching the ultra-wealthy.

Please vote YES on SB 1507.

Thank you.