

To: House Committee on Revenue

From: Cristal DeJarnac

Date: February 19, 2026

RE: SB 1507A

Dear Chair Nathanson, Vice-chairs Walters and Reschke, and members of the committee,

My name is Cristal DeJarnac from Redmond, and I'm the President of Homecare with SEIU Local 503. I represent the 30,000 State paid Care Providers covered under our Collective Bargaining Agreement. I'm writing to urge you to vote in favor of SB 1507A. As a state, we should not balance the budget on the backs of our children, youth, seniors, working families, disabled, and veterans while the rich get richer, and the middle class struggles to pay the bills.

As a result of HR 1 passed by Congress in 2025, Oregon will lose billions of dollars in funding for the Oregon Health Plan, SNAP food benefits, school meals, childcare, and other essential programs.

Passing Senate Bill 1507 is the first step toward closing our budget gap now, closing tax loopholes, and investing in working families through Oregon's Earned Income Tax Credit. Not passing this bill would mean cuts to public services that our members deliver and Oregonians rely on.

I currently work as a Personal Support Worker with two adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. In my role, I make sure they are safe, well fed, and can live with dignity in their communities. I am also a Notary Public and Loan Signing Agent.

But today I want to talk about another side of my life. In August of 2023, the person I was a live-in care provider for, for 9 years in Bend, passed away unexpectedly. In July of 2024 came the letter from the Estate Recovery Program with a \$130,000 bill attached to it. That's when the property went through probate and in February of 2025, myself, my son and his family of 4 were told by the Executor of my consumers estate, that the only way to pay the bill was to sell the property, which meant we had to move.

I started looking for an apartment to move into, but rents are so high and wait-lists are very long. I tried to move into every RV park and Mobile Home park in Bend and Redmond and was constantly told that my 1986 5th wheel trailer is too old. Apparently they have a rule that nothing over 10 years old and at some parks its 15 years old, are allowed in the Parks. I asked them why and I was told that it's the only way to keep their KOA and Good Sam ratings.

So, after many months of trying to find a place to move to and our deadline moving closer and closer, my kids decided to buy an RV with their tax return and leave Oregon for good. I decided to stay because of the work I do representing our Care Providers and our Consumers; it's my passion. But I still wasn't having any luck finding a place.

In early May of 2025, I was visiting my Senator, Anthony Broadman, in his Salem office. He asked me how my search was going and I told him not good and explained it to him. I should add that Bend Mayor Melanie Keebler was also present at this visit. Senator Broadman took it upon himself to call Rick Russell, the Director of the Redmond Safe Parking Program, he explained my situation to him, and within 30 minutes I got a call from the Program and was told to fill out some paperwork, and I would be admitted into the Program. Two weeks later, two workers from the Program came to my house in Bend and towed my 5th wheel trailer to Redmond and I officially became homeless.

I am extremely happy that I was able to get into the Safe Parking Program and not end up out in "Dirt World", which is where I was headed. The Safe Parking Program was truly my saving grace. It has allowed me to be in a safe situation, I'm a single, disabled, senior woman, living alone with my cat, being in this Program has allowed me to continue with my Care work, Union work and my Notary work. It has allowed me to come and go as I please. If I had ended up in Dirt World, that would not have been the case, my entire life would have imploded, I would not have been safe, my property and vehicles would not have been safe either, I wouldn't have been able to leave.

I am currently on 20+ waitlists for affordable ADA housing. I am also disabled after being t-boned in a car accident in February 2022, I suffered a major concussion, neck and back injuries and was in physical therapy for 3 years. Because of the concussion I now have a vestibular imbalance, and I'm a fall risk. So, I also need ADA accessible housing on a ground floor. Unfortunately, there aren't a lot of those around, so my wait is even longer.

In October of 2025, I was having a conversation with my Program case manager, and he told me that the Program had lost all their state funding, and they wouldn't be accepting anymore people in trailers into the Program. This made me think of all those who are in my situation too, of the families out in Dirt World and how they are going to be safe. I have since become an advocate/activist for the Homeless and the Programs that support them. We saw what happened when the Administration was going to cut Food Stamps in October, food banks were inundated with service requests, and with continued food and funding shortages they are still playing catch up to be able to help everyone.

While being on a discussion panel in December for Homelessness, afterwards a gentleman who works with the Homeless, came up to me and told me of this woman who was also

homeless and living out in Dirt World, she has been homeless for the past 4 years. In all that time she has been unable to get any kind of assistance, housing, nothing, all because she doesn't have an ID. She moved here from California and has been trying to get her ID since, but she couldn't get her ID without a birth certificate. In order to get a copy of her birth certificate she had to have an ID or get an affidavit notarized. No one would notarize it for her, because she doesn't have an ID. It's been a vicious circle she's been in for 4 years. So, the very next day I met the gentleman and this woman out in Dirt World and notarized her documents with the gentleman as a sworn witness. She now has her birth certificate and was able to get her ID and can now work on getting housing. It's stories like these that drive me even harder to help where I can.

By rejecting Trump's tax giveaways and closing tax loopholes, this legislature can keep its promise to our children, youth, secondary education learners, families, seniors, disabled, veterans and homeless. This bill ensures that the legislature retains funding in the General Fund to continue to make investments in housing, education, childcare, Oregon Health Plan, and many other programs that Oregonians rely on. Expand the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC): SB 1507-A bill expands the Earned Income Tax Credit by the largest amount in Oregon's history, lowering taxes for more than 200,000 low-to-moderate income households. That will help an estimated 535,000 Oregonians, half of whom are children. SB 1507-A proposes no tax on tips and no tax on overtime. SB 1507-A also creates a \$25 million jobs tax credit to lower taxes on Oregon businesses that create good-paying jobs in Oregon.

As a member of SEIU 503, I care deeply about my public service to Oregon and all Oregonians who rely on our services. In closing, I ask the members of this committee to Pass SB 1507-A, better yet detach completely from the Feds and use that money to fund all the "Safety Net Programs" that Oregonians need to get by during these toughest of times. The ultra wealthy and large corporations don't need tax cuts; they need to pay their fair share, and we need to fight for a future and a tax code that works for all Oregonians.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Cristal DeJarnac