



435 NE Dekum St, Portland, OR, 97211 | (503) 286-0477 | www.orstudents.org | @OregonStudents
April 25th, 2015

To: Joint Committee on Ways and Means
From: Tiffany Reardon, Southern Oregon University
RE: University Funding

Co-chairs Devlin and Buckley and Members of the Committee,

My name is Tiffany Reardon and I am a part time student at SOU and just got admitted into the OHSU School of Nursing. I am originally from Milwaukie Oregon and I am a first generation college student coming from a low income household.

I was raised by a single mother who did her best to provide for me. She struggles to keep up and since coming to SOU and making Ashland my home I have been on my own financially.

I now work 2 jobs which is about 25 hours per week. This has decreased significantly from last year where I was working 4 jobs to survive. Now that I am making a better wage I am able to work less and devote more time to school. This does not include my work with student government or my work with clubs on campus. After my second year of full time enrollment I dropped down to part time because I could not afford the cost of tuition along with rent and bills and other necessities to survive, like food.

I knew that education would be my key to a secure future and unfortunately have been met with challenges affording that future.

With two degrees I will be graduating with nearly \$80,000 in debt. This number is not only terrifying but also makes me question whether or not I am pursuing the best option for my future. After graduating I will be paying back student loans ~~at~~ rates higher than my monthly rent. And many other students share this same reality.

One thing that has become obvious to me is the need for family financial support. For the students who do not have that support, we are left to make tough decisions that impact the reality of achieving more than what we come from.

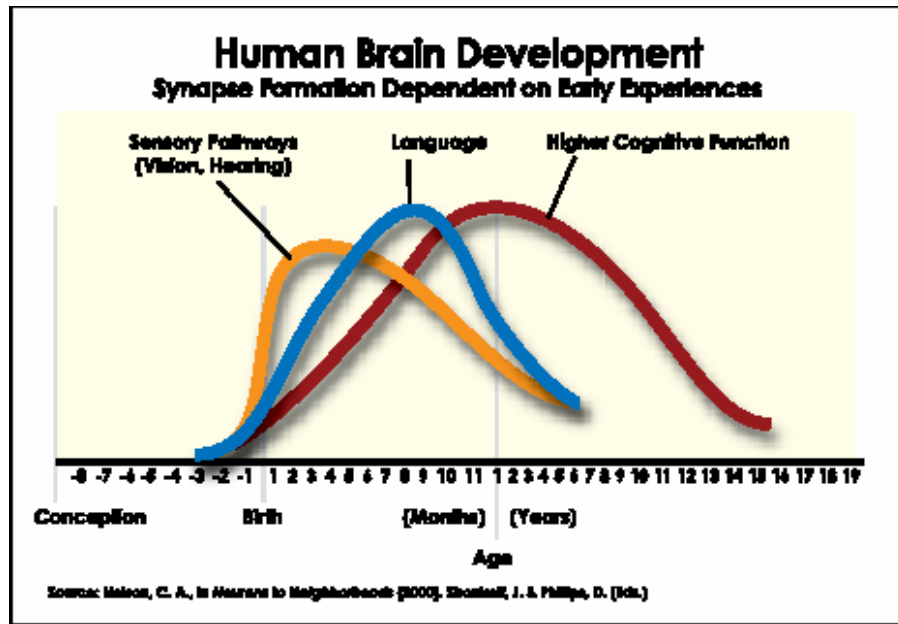
Please fund \$755 million for universities and \$550 million for Community Colleges and restore the cuts to higher education. Help insure that the future is assessable and realistic to achieve for everyone, not just the group who can pay outright for it.

Thank you so much for your time.

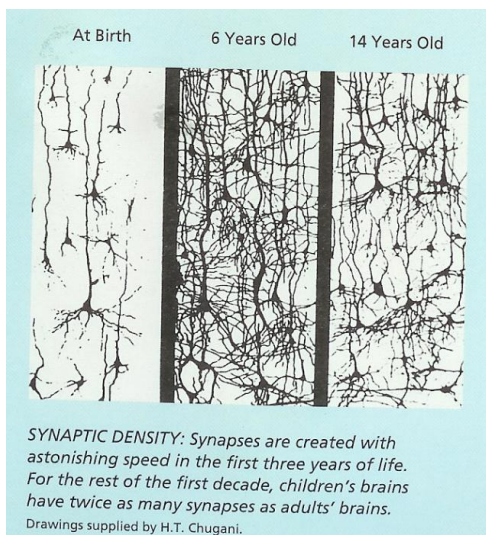
UPSTREAM

In a resource deficient world, legislation needs to focus on the “best bang for the buck.”

Growing, strong, robust and healthy brains is essential for developing a platform for children to be successful in life. Recognizing that critical brain development occurs by the time a child is 3 years of age spotlights the need for “upstream” support to provide services when the child is young. Continued investment in programs like HB5016 or HB 3380 are a continued need.

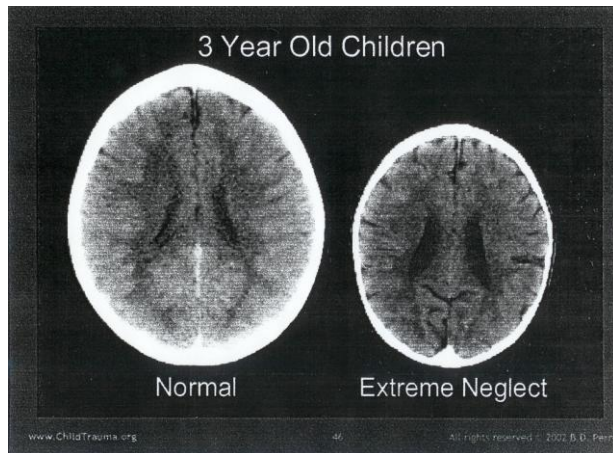


There are targeted “windows of opportunity” . . . periods when the brain is particularly efficient at specific types of learning. . . and timing is crucial (e.g. syntax 5-6yrs). Promoting the development of synaptic superhighways best occurs in the first three years of life. If appropriately stimulated (e.g. language rich environments, caring nurturing adults) 50 trillion synapses at birth turn into 1000 trillion at one year of age. Early stimulation impacts brain architecture “affecting the way the brain is wired” with the weight of the brain tripling by age 3. The absence of appropriate touch results in brains 20-30% smaller.



Focusing on the early “windows of opportunity” . . . when the timing is crucial and the brain is particularly efficient at specific types of learning will:

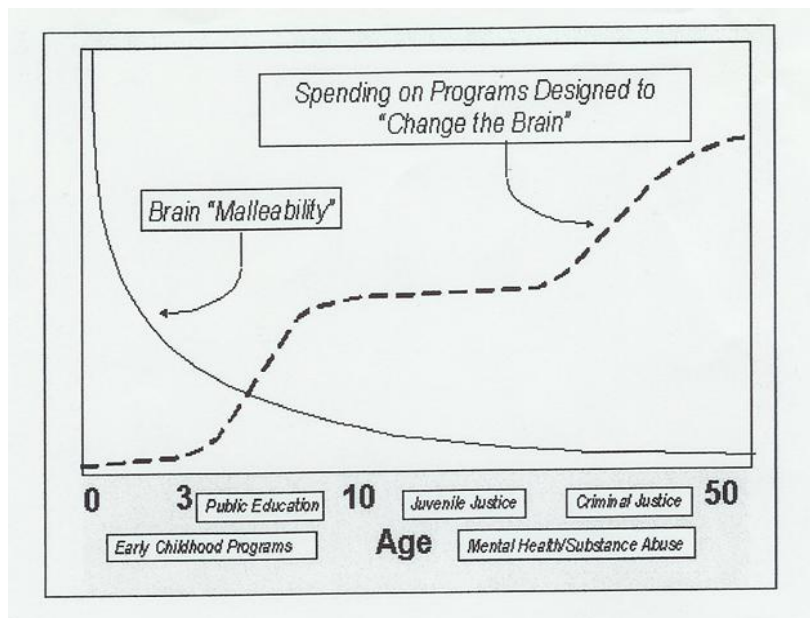
- Shape the way the brain develops
- Impact developmental outcomes
- Help minimize secondary disabilities
- Decrease school age special education
- Potentially decrease child abuse. If children are delayed or disabled they are at 2-10x greater rate of abuse.



Quiet Crisis

Our nation's children under the age of 3 and their families are in trouble and their plight worsens every day. Inadequate prenatal care, infant care and child care; isolated parents; insufficient attention (only 1/2 of the children are read to by parents) and 1 in 3 arrive at school unprepared to learn. Babies don't make the news: they don't commit crimes, do drugs or drop out of school.

Build early services (especially 0-3) rather than prisons



Untangle the myriad of early services

The recommendations for supporting young children and their families are fairly universal. Legislatively long term embark on the journey of developing a new streamlined model of services that isn't splintered into the service buckets of early HeadStart, HeadStart, Oregon PreK, early intervention, early childhood special education, relief nurseries, etc. Recognizing the economies of scale, consider the development of a "new day" single agency program (that is not wastefully clogged with mounds of bureaucratic paperwork) to support Oregon families with young children. Add back the specialized services as needed (e.g. specialized instruction). Short term support existing services especially those focused on birth-to-three. Keep the vision towards promoting healthy brain development via services offered to young children and their families. HB3380 allows children access to community facilitated preschools which typically are less expensive service models than a standard HeadStart or PreK program. HB5016 supports early intervention services giving these children a better shot at being independent and functional adults.

Sue Kline RN, MS Former Director of Child Development Services
(Jackson County's early intervention/early childhood special education program)

Chair Buckley,

Ways and Means Committee Members,

I am writing to respectfully request that you continue to protect and expand the modest investment in Early Learning in Oregon thru the following measures.

The Kindergarten Partnership and Innovation Fund provides seed grants that empower school and community collaboration such as the successful P-3 Initiative at Jackson Elementary, here in Jackson County. Given the instability of education funding in Oregon, these kinds of community and school partnerships are absolutely vital if we are going to get children from disadvantaged backgrounds ready to learn and on par with their peers when they enter Kindergarten. The brain malleability between the ages of birth and 4 years old has been well documented, and early intervention for low income children in particular has shown to have dramatic results in achieving normal placement and graduation rates, as well as continuing on to higher education. This makes sense not only for closing the achievement gap, but from a cost standpoint as well: providing services in the most cost effective manner when they do the most good. A modest \$9 million investment will allow this important work to continue in the 2015-2017 biennium.

HB5016 will allocate \$30 million in the next biennium to make high quality preschool available to more children from low income families, including families not eligible for Head Start but who also cannot afford private preschool. HB3380 will begin building a statewide preschool system that not only aligns with Head Start, but allows for a mix of other providers, which may be a more cost effective alternative when the specific circumstances surrounding a child's needs and family supports is evaluated. Not all children need the full array of Head Start services, but still need high quality preschool to avoid falling behind their peers.

High quality preschool for children from low income families can close the achievement gap before it starts and improve the chance for academic and future success for all children, regardless of their background. I urge you to continue this important investment by supporting these initiatives.

Thank you,

Karen Starchvick

Former Chair, Stand for Children Jackson County

From: [Sherry Ettlich](#)
To: [waysandmeans budget](#)
Subject: Testimony
Date: Saturday, April 25, 2015 2:21:20 PM

Testimony

Thank you for traveling to Southern Oregon to hear our concerns.

My name is Sherry Ettlich and I have been a mathematics professor at SOU for 27 years and currently head our STEM division.

I have watched the hard choices legislators have made over the last two decades that have steadily shifted costs from the State to students.

I appreciate your commitment to reinvest in higher education. I am here to ask you to carefully consider the university president's recommendation to increase that to \$755M.

This is essential to the TRUs who cannot take advantage of the same economies of scale available to larger institutions, especially with the dissolution of OUS.

SOU is particularly challenged by our desire to provide opportunities to all students, not just those most likely to graduate. The additional investment is needed to strengthen and grow the support systems for these students to meet the 40-40-20 vision set by you all.

In conclusion, education is an economic driver for our state as you have all noted in setting Oregon's 40-40-20 goal. Help us rise to meeting this goal and opening higher education to all by funding the universities at \$755M. Thank you for your consideration.



635 NE Dekum St, Portland, OR, 97211 | (503) 286-0477 | www.orstudents.org | @OregonStudents
Co-Chairs Devlin and Buckley and Members of the Committee,

Hello, my name is Emily Pfeiffer and I am a sophomore at Southern Oregon University. Today I am here to inform you of the negative impacts that state divestment in higher education has had on my life and other students in Oregon.

When I started school in the fall of 2014, I knew that I wanted a career in psychology, which meant pursuing higher education was something I had to do if I wanted a job in the field of counseling. One of the main reasons I decided to attend Southern Oregon University was that I knew I would be paying significantly less for my degree than if I attended a school such as the University of Oregon. Currently, I have about nine thousand dollars in student loan debt. I have been forced to take out loans, even though I am a recipient of the Oregon Opportunity Grant and the Pell Grant.

I have also had to take it upon myself to work almost twenty hours a week just to make sure I can pay rent and buy basics for myself such as food and electricity. I have to be careful every time I buy necessities such as groceries because I fear I will run out of money to pay my rent. All of this is a result of me having to put such an extreme amount of my own income towards my education.

As for other students at Southern Oregon University, they are facing very similar preventable circumstances. Currently Southern Oregon University is in retrenchment, which runs the risk of having to cut programs such as the fine arts. As a university that prides themselves as being "the Liberal Arts University of the West", it seems ridiculous that we cannot provide students with a degree in fine arts if they wish to pursue it. The more cuts our school faces, the less we become a liberal arts university and become more of a trade school.

The path that this state is headed down in regard to student loans is an incredibly dangerous one. Students are being priced out of higher education and are being forced to enter the work force right out of high school, out of fear of going into high amounts of debt and falling deeper into poverty. It is clear that the state budget for universities needs to be set at \$755 million in order to ensure students will have the opportunity to pursue higher education without debt creating such a negative impact on our lives and future goals.

Thank You.

Sincerely,

Emily Pfeiffer

Southern Oregon University

PfeifferE@SOU.edu



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Co-chairs Devlin and Buckley and Members of the Committee,

Hello, my name is Heather Buchanan and I am a second year student at Southern Oregon University and a member of the Honors College.

I come from a dual income household and growing up, I always knew that I would be able to go to college and get the education I needed to pursue my professional and personal goals. I chose to come to SOU because it offers small classes sizes with professors that are able to further my career aspirations and has a small campus that fosters personal and professional relationships. While in college, I have had the opportunity to become greatly involved in student government, take heavy course loads, and attend and present at many leadership development conferences without fear of not being able to take time off work or not working enough hours to pay for my schooling and personal expenses.

These opportunities allow me to get the most out of my college career and make me a more competitive applicant for graduate schools and future employers, which will greatly increase my ability to follow my dreams and gain meaningful employment after graduation. However, I am only able to do this because I receive a scholarship and financial assistance from my parents. My story is not typical of Oregon college students. For far too many people, rising tuition costs means they are forced to work multiple jobs while attending school and incur thousands of dollars of student debt to earn a degree. This makes them unable to pursue the opportunities I pursued and prevents them from being as competitive an applicant as they could be which hinders their ability to find meaningful employment after graduation; and thus pursue their passions.

Education cannot be the great equalizer, which many of you believe it to be, if so many of the career-furthering opportunities available to students are only accessible to those who have the financial security to pursue them. I therefore urge you to make Oregon universities the equalizing forces they have the potential to be by stopping the downpour of debt, restoring the cuts, and putting the University budget at \$755 million and Community Colleges at 560 million

Thank you for your time,

Heather Buchanan

Southern Oregon University

Buchanah@SOU.edu



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Co-Chairs Devlin and Buckley, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for letting me speak here today. My name is Regina Mannino and I am a senior at Southern Oregon University college student, an SOU senior, who is and I am graduating this June with above a 3.5 GPA, and also with over \$45,000 of student-loan debt. As a person who grew up in poverty, in early childhood with two parents on Social Security Disability, in foster care as a pre-teen, and then under legal guardianship in my adolescence.,

I feel very honored to have had the opportunity to attend a university and be able to succeed here.

A University, and to succeed there. Unfortunately, during this time I have also been fighting many battles with everything from food insecurity, to housing insecurity, to health issues.

In the handful of years since I have been attending college, I have seen a very troubling trend of disadvantaged students being priced out of higher education. Increasingly, I hear people insist that they could never afford to go back to school.

The retrenchment at SOU, which I see as at least partially caused by continued trend of disinvestment of by the state in higher education, is currently resulting in the elimination of programs that help people who have a harder time adjusting to college. For example, the SOU Schneider Children's center where I work is on the chopping block this year, causing all kinds of logistical problems for students with young children—students who are considered “nontraditional”. I have read that the Multicultural Resource Center also scored low in priority, which I consider highly disturbing considering what barriers many people of color have to go through to try to attend college.

I urge you to consider making rural colleges, and “nontraditional” or minority traditionally underrepresented and underserved identified students, a higher priority to the state.

I strive to be a person who serves the community as I also become financially self-sufficient. Yet I feel strongly that the disinvestment in higher education is putting too much burden on this generation of college students; this same generation who's been told time and time again that with persistence we will make it. I fear without the promise of employment upon graduation our student loan debt numbers will only hold us back. Please restore funding to Oregon's public universities by funding them at a minimum of \$755million.



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Sincerely,

Regina Manino
Southern Oregon University
ManinoR@SOU.edu]



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April 24, 2015

To: Joint Committee on Ways and Means

From: Ahsante Sankofa Foree, Southern Oregon University

RE: Funding for Universities

Co-Chairs Buckley and Devlin and Members of the Committee,

Good morning, I am Ahsante Sankofa Foree I am a 3rd year Student at Southern Oregon University. Today I am here with my peers from around the state to highlight the impacts of disinvestments in public higher education is having on students and our families.

In my home state of California tuition is too high to be affordable. My families first solution was to send me to school in Alabama, however, I found the homophobia rampant on my campus too much to bear so I transferred to SOU because it was the place where I knew I could be myself. Especially because it stands as one of the most LGBTQIA+ inclusive campuses in the country. At SOU I could receive the necessary academic tools so I could harness my passion for social justice and healing folk. I am working toward an interdisciplinary degree between psychology and sociology, and I am seeking to use it in a career in clinical social work.

At the outset I knew that I would have to overcome systematic racism because of my race, I knew my learning differences would make it difficult as well. Yet the most forbidding boundary in my way is the tremendous debt I have accrued, a fact compounded by the fact that my calling is not known for being the highest paying.

Moreover I claim my debt but in truth it is not actually mine. My Family has brought me here today, both in terms of their steadfast devotion and the many loans they have taken out to finance my education. Mine is not the only debt that my family carries, and it rivals their other amounts of debt. This has and will continue to be a burden for my family. I fear that in the pursuit of my passion and happiness, which is ultimately to help people I have doomed myself and my family to work all our lives to pay for approximately 5 years of education. This shouldn't be a fear of anyone with a drive to learn and a goal of a degree.

Thus I ask you, members of the committee stop the downpour of debt, restore the cuts, and set the university budget at a minimum of \$755 million.

Ahsante Foree

(Ah-Sahn-Tē)

Director of Diversity

Associated Students of Souther Oregon University

**Ways and Means Committee Community Hearings
April 25, 2015**

**Testimony of Erik Dahlin
Oregon Law Center**

Co-chairs Devlin and Buckley, Members of the Committee: My name is Eric Dahlin and I am the managing attorney for the Grants Pass office of the Oregon Law Center, one of the statewide legal aid programs. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of increased funding for legal aid. Legal aid provides justice and fairness for low-income clients who are struggling with legal issues related to housing, employment, debts, benefits, domestic violence and other issues. We help people understand their rights and responsibilities under the rule of law.

Statewide, there are about 850,000 people who are eligible with only 90 legal aid lawyers to serve them. In Josephine County, there are 23,000 people eligible with only 2 legal aid lawyers to serve them. This is well below the recommended ratio of 2 legal aid lawyers per 10,000 eligible clients for minimum access. We have seen an increasing demand for services over the last two years as the local economy was still struggling. Like many rural communities, Josephine County has a higher rate of poverty and unemployment than other parts of Oregon. It has never really been the same since the timber industry faltered. We see an increasing need for services on matters related to domestic violence, housing, employment and benefits.

I want to tell you a little about my background so you can understand more about individuals who work at legal aid. I am a veteran of the United States Air Force and attended law school after completing my military service. I wanted to work in a rural office because I think that there is a closer sense of community. You can see how your work makes a real difference for families and the community over time. My work started as a staff attorney in the legal aid office in Ontario. I moved to the legal aid office in Coos Bay for a couple of years and then came here to become the managing attorney in 1999.

A large part of my work involves helping people with housing and senior law issues. We can often solve a legal problem with a brief phone call or quick letter. We have a relatively large number of veterans in Josephine County, many whom are living in the Illinois Valley. They tend to come to the office seeking help with benefits. We often find several things that we can do to help them. We work closely with community partners like the Senior and Disability Services, the Department of Human Services, the domestic violence shelter, the housing authority, law enforcement and other service providers.

Legal aid is doing vital work to protect families, the elderly and disabled and other vulnerable members of our communities. I urge your support for additional funding for legal aid so that we can do more of this vital work statewide to meet critical legal needs in our communities. Please support HB 2329. Thank you for giving me an opportunity to testify today.

Joint Ways and Means Committee

Grents Pass, Oregon. April 25, 2015

Testimony by: Sandra Coyner

1160 Fern St., Ashland OR Sandra.coyner@gmail.com

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I request that you approve **funding for HB2828**, to extend and fund a Health Care Study for the State of Oregon.

Health care is expensive for Oregonians. Our country has one of the highest health-care costs in the world, more than twice the cost as many other developed countries. And yet all this spending doesn't produce equivalent results in terms of health outcomes. Life expectancy in the U.S., for example, is not outstanding and is lower than in many countries where health care costs less. We have fewer doctors per person. We're **not getting what we're paying for**.

How can this disconnect be possible? How can we pay so much and get so little? A hugely important factor is **the cost of managing hundreds of health insurance plans**. My doctor's office—and your doctor's office, too—is forced to employ somebody, maybe several somebodies, whose main expertise is that they know or can figure out how to file insurance claims when each company, and sometimes each policy, has unique and specific requirements. **I want to pay for health care, not bureaucracy**. I would rather see those dollars go for other needs—perhaps funding schools, or even just left in taxpayers' pockets.

Oregon has a distinguished history of leadership in smart public policy that has been copied by other states, because we showed how well our changes work. We can be proud of our state's actions on such issues as bottle recycling, protecting public beaches, and coordinated care organizations. Let's take the next steps to **save dramatic amounts of money for all Oregonians**.

HB 2828 provides for a study that will guide legislators next year in designing changes for health care in Oregon. The study must look at single-payer models, but also other models. Recommendations from the study must address universal access, choice of provider, affordability for individuals and businesses, and fair, sustainable financing—the criteria identified for health care that will serve all Oregonians. You, the legislature, will have **good information comparing health care financing systems according to criteria that really make a difference**.

Smart funding for health care is supported by health-care providers and businesses as well as concerned citizens. It should be a bipartisan issue. Single-payer health care would remove a significant burden on business, especially small business, thereby encouraging entrepreneurship. **Fairness and smartness are not values of only one political party**. I'm not fond of paying for bureaucracy, in either the public or the private sector.

Current estimates are that a single-payer plan providing health care for Oregonians could save as much as \$2000 per person on health care costs. Our legislature—that's you guys-- should use its powers to reduce these costs for taxpayers. The amount of money needed to fund this study is small. The potential gain for all Oregonians is huge. **Let's be a smart state pursuing well-designed health care funding**.

Nick Dordon 541-476-2824
5764 New Hope
G.P.,

1. Hunting grounds are sealed off
by Sum & Forest. Fishing Hunting
Rules are over Barring -

2. Mining 838 Bill is totally ~~done~~
wrong -

3. There are no free lunches.
"Simple", start logging & mining
But - no large mining company
from the outside, we have
local talent.

Oregon's best investment: COMMUNITY COLLEGES



April 25, 2015

Dear Ways and Means Committee Members:

We believe community colleges are Oregon's Best Investment. Oregon's community colleges have provided the education and training needed for Oregonians to recover after the 2008 economic crisis and we are providing the education/training services needed for Oregon's continued economic growth and expansion.

We are:

- Creating new taxpayers
- The engine for economic growth.
- Cultivating active citizens, increasing civic engagement, broadening perspectives, and fostering habits of adaptability, information literacy, and reasoned conclusions. This benefits not only the students themselves, but their neighborhoods, communities, and our state.
- Responding efficiently and effectively to employer's workforce needs.
- Creating the ladder to the middle class.
- A vital part of the state's education system and serve about 350,000 students a year, or about 1 in 11 Oregonians, from border-to-border.
- Supporting the priorities of the Oregon Business Plan Summit (January 6, 2015) to: connect education to work, improve the economy and opportunities in rural Oregon, improve earnings and help Oregonians out of poverty.

A few months ago, an Oregon newspaper editorial reported,

"Oregon currently rank 47th in the nation for its funding of community colleges, which customize programs to meet workforce needs in their respective locations. These institutions offer lower tuition costs and have career-oriented programs that can get people into family-wage jobs within a relatively short period of time. Increasing outputs from community colleges, which educate nearly half of all undergraduates across the country, can only happen when they receive an equitable share of overall education funding."

"Invest more in colleges, schools," The Dalles Chronicle, Jan. 17, 2015

We urge you to consider a community college support fund of \$550 million; this really should be called the community college investment fund because we are investing in Oregon's citizens.

We thank you for your dedicated service to Oregon.

My best wishes,



Peter Angstadt, Ph.D.

President, Rogue Community College

Oregon's Best Investment: Community Colleges

Sample of Community College Specialty/Program Results

Blue Mountain Community College

| Specialty/Program | Number Employed | Main Industry | Average Hourly Wage | Reported Total Six Month Wage (actual) |
|--------------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------------|--|
| Registered Nursing | 9 | Health Care | \$25.63 | \$172,140.94 |

Central Oregon Community College

| Specialty/Program | Number Employed | Main Industry | Average Hourly Wage | Reported Total Six Month Wage (actual) |
|--|-----------------|----------------------|---------------------|--|
| Airline/Commercial/ Professional Pilot & Flight Crew | 15 | Educational Services | \$18.99 | \$141,730.07 |

Chemeketa Community College

| Specialty/Program | Number Employed | Main Industry | Average Hourly Wage | Reported Total Six Month Wage (actual) |
|-------------------|-----------------|------------------------------------|---------------------|--|
| EMT/Paramedic | 33 | Health Care, Public Administration | \$14.51 | \$479,829.30 |

Clackamas Community College

| Specialty/Program | Number Employed | Main Industry | Average Hourly Wage | Reported Total Six Month Wage (actual) |
|---|-----------------|-----------------------|---------------------|--|
| Water Quality/Wastewater Treatment Management and Recycling Technology/Technician | 13 | Public Administration | \$19.74 | \$217,890.40 |

Clatsop Community College

| Specialty/Program | Number Employed | Main Industry | Average Hourly Wage | Reported Total Six Month Wage (actual) |
|----------------------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------------|--|
| Medical/Clinical Assistant | 15 | Health Care | \$13.89 | \$153,975.73 |

Columbia Gorge Community College

| Specialty/Program | Number Employed | Main Industry | Average Hourly Wage | Reported Total Six Month Wage (actual) |
|--|-----------------|------------------------------------|---------------------|--|
| Licensed Practical/Vocational Nurse Training | 11 | Health Care, Public Administration | \$17.55 | \$79,755.72 |

Klamath Community College

| Specialty/Program | Number Employed | Main Industry | Average Hourly Wage | Reported Total Six Month Wage (actual) |
|--|-----------------|---------------|---------------------|--|
| Licensed Practical/Vocational Nurse Training | 10 | Health Care | \$20.94 | \$203,324.84 |

Lane Community College

| Specialty/Program | Number Employed | Main Industry | Average Hourly Wage | Reported Total Six Month Wage (actual) |
|----------------------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------------|--|
| Physical Therapy Assistant | 20 | Health Care | \$23.39 | \$271,752.67 |

Linn-Benton Community College

| Specialty/Program | Number Employed | Main Industry | Average Hourly Wage | Reported Total Six Month Wage (actual) |
|--|-----------------|---------------|---------------------|--|
| Radiologic Technology/Science-Radiographer | 23 | Health Care | \$27.76 | \$494,228.34 |

Mt. Hood Community College

| Specialty/Program | Number Employed | Main Industry | Average Hourly Wage | Reported Total Six Month Wage (actual) |
|--------------------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------------|--|
| Dental Hygiene/Hygienist | 14 | Health Care | \$31.17 | \$171,833.90 |

Oregon Coast Community College

| Specialty/Program | Number Employed | Main Industry | Average Hourly Wage | Reported Total Six Month Wage (actual) |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------------|--|
| Registered Nursing/Registered Nurse | 16 | Health Care | \$33.55 | \$308,270.91 |

Portland Community College

| Specialty/Program | Number Employed | Main Industry | Average Hourly Wage | Reported Total Six Month Wage (actual) |
|--|-----------------|---|---------------------|--|
| Computer Programming-Specific Applications | 106 | Manufacturing, Retail Trade, Health Care, Information | \$23.80 | \$2,158,831.58 |

Rogue Community College

| Specialty/Program | Number Employed | Main Industry | Average Hourly Wage | Reported Total Six Month Wage (actual) |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|---|---------------------|--|
| Manufacturing Technology/Technician | 21 | Manufacturing, Construction, Educational Services | \$22.37 | \$438,804.71 |

Southwestern Oregon Community College

| Specialty/Program | Number Employed | Main Industry | Average Hourly Wage | Reported Total Six Month Wage (actual) |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------------|--|
| Registered Nursing/Registered Nurse | 26 | Health Care | \$33.07 | \$549,701.70 |

Treasure Valley Community College

| Specialty/Program | Number Employed | Main Industry | Average Hourly Wage | Reported Total Six Month Wage (actual) |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------------|--|
| Elementary Education/Teaching | 8 | Health Care | \$13.33 | \$79, 898.26 |

Umpqua Community College

| Specialty/Program | Number Employed | Main Industry | Average Hourly Wage | Reported Total Six Month Wage (actual) |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------------|--|
| Registered Nursing/Registered Nurse | 50 | Health Care | \$30.30 | \$1,114,179.80 |

*For More Information Contact
Dr. Peter Angstadt, President
Rogue Community College
3345 Redwood Highway
Grants Pass, OR 97527
(541) 956-7001
pangstadt@roguecc.edu*



560 NE F St. Suite A430
Grants Pass OR 97526
541 476-3877
www.wcstjoco.org

April 25th, 2015

Dear Ways and Means Committee Members,

Support Survivor Safety (SB 5516)

Fund the Oregon Domestic and Sexual Violence Services Fund (ODSVS) at \$10 million for 2015-2017


The Oregon Domestic and Sexual Violence Services (ODSVS) Fund is a lifeline to Oregonians. ODSVS funds emergency shelter, expert safety planning, counseling, and other support services to Oregonians fleeing domestic and sexual violence in every county across the state. But in 2013, almost 12,000 requests for emergency shelter from violence couldn't be met because of a lack of funding. That's almost 2 unmet requests every hour of every day for the entire year. Almost half of these requests came from victims seeking shelter for their children, too.

For Oregonians who are able to access services, there is help. Access to domestic and sexual violence services reduces re-assault up to 70%.

Here's one example of how ODSVS helps victims become survivors.

Our local Senior & Disabled Services (Adult Protective Services) case worker contacted our DV/SA Intervention Advocate regarding an elderly woman who was pushed by her adult son and broke her hip. She was residing in a rehabilitation center during her convalescence. Our advocate met with her there and assisted with filling out the Elder & Disabled Protection Order, arranged to have the document notarized and arranged with our Family Court for her to appear by phone. Our advocate explained how both the civil and criminal court systems worked and what her crime victim rights are. Her abusive son contested the protective order and our advocate helped her to find a pro-bono attorney to represent her in the contested case. Our advocate will continue to follow this case and be there for this elderly victim as the criminal case moves forward.

Program: Women's Crisis Support Team
County Served: Josephine


Krisanna Albrecht
Executive Director

Board of Directors

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Executive Director

Krisanna Albrecht

Ways and Means Hearing

4/25/15

K-Partnerships & Innovation

Thank you!

I am Nancy Nordyke, Head Start Director at Southern Oregon Head Start. ~~I have worked in early childhood education for 40 years, and 45 years if you consider my work as an undergraduate and graduate student in the field.~~ In addition to

working with Head Start I am on the Executive Council of Southern Oregon Early Learning Services, (SOELS) the Early Learning Hub for Jackson and Josephine

County. SOELS is an organization that takes on big problems that can't be fixed by a single program or even a few programs. *We are in support of HB 5016 & HB 3380*

It is an organization that is building a stronger community. Education is key to a strong, healthy and vibrant community. Southern Oregon's high school graduation rates are among the lowest in the country. These problems often begin early in a child's life. We have maximum opportunity to affect the graduation rates by beginning when children are young before they enter school.

We know that when young child experience-childhood traumatic events, such as witnessing violence, neglect, incarceration or death of a family member, etc., it affects their brain development significantly and can have lifelong consequences in employment and earnings, their relationships, involvement in the criminal justice system and in their health. By intervening early with preschool services and services for families to help them be effective lifelong teachers for their children we can overcome these problems. It is much more effective before a child is 5 or 6 years of age. *Recognized by economists, police, courts, Fight Crime & Military*

I urge you to support HB 5016 and HB 3380 which would:

1. increase the number of children in Oregon who have access to high-quality preschool,
2. build a continuum of learning for children and their families from birth-preschool-kindergarten and third grade
3. close the achievement gap that there is between children from low-income and middle income families.

Train ELK Teachers together
non curricula across
work with families - services
achievement gap
families
WIC, library
info on parenting
recruitment
HS, health
nutrition info

Nancy Nordyke

This saves at least \$8.00 for every dollar spent by decreasing the costs of remedial education, incarceration and health costs.

Currently the Oregon Head Start Pre-K program which serves the young children of the neediest families is only serving about 55% of the eligible children. That means about 32,000 don't have access. Please support these two bills to build stronger healthier communities in Southern Oregon.

*include families - they are life long teachers for their children
increase grad. rates
build a healthier community
& save \$.*

Increase Resources for Shelter and Affordable Housing for Survivors

Hello, my name is Dawn Burks. I am here today representing Community Works. Community Works serves adolescents, young adults, women and families who are working to overcome severe life crisis and complex traumas. Thank you for giving us an opportunity to speak with you today. As the program manager of the Dunn House Shelter, I work with survivors of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, providing resources, advocacy, and emergency shelter in Jackson County. Our immediate concern is the urgent need for increased resources for affordable housing to survivors of domestic and sexual abuse.

In Many instances, survivors have experienced years of complex traumas and neglect. Close to 50% of women and children who are homeless report that they have been subject to domestic violence in their life time. Many became homeless as a result of the abuse. They find it difficult to build a successful future, because of numerous barriers including: safety concerns, decreased access to education, financial instability, limited transportation, and difficulty finding affordable housing.

Jackson County has only 1% rental vacancy. As a result, landlords tend to be selective as to whom they will rent to. When a survivor has poor or no credit history, a past eviction, and/or a criminal record, safe and secure housing is nearly impossible to find. If they do find an option, they may be faced with a request for an unaffordable, inflated deposit.

Survivors not only need resources for affordable housing, there needs to be incentives for rental property owners to permit someone that could be seen as "high risk" to be allowed to rent. It takes community involvement and commitment to help survivors rebuild their life and become sustainable. We need your help in affecting change for our community and state.

Thank you.

To the House Ways and Means Committee;

Good afternoon. My name is Beverly DeLeonardis. *I am with Health Care for All Oregon. I am here to ask you to pass SB 631 and HB2828.* I have 2 minutes so I want to focus and address one or two problems of our present health care system. The health care costs of our system are too high and they do not cover everyone.

The rise in health care costs has been the major cause of bankruptcy for Oregonian families and small businesses. 75% of them have medical insurance when the health care crisis occurs. At least 500 Oregonians die each year because of economic barriers to accessing health care. I am sure you have heard multiple stories from families, individuals and small business people explaining that they did everything they could but the system is broken. SB 631 states some ways to fix the problem.

SB 631 will solve the problem:

- 1- Access- Universality - everyone is in and no one is left out. This is the same as Medicare when you reach 65. You have complete access to the system.
- 2- The system would be Comprehensive in that it would cover all of your medical necessary services.
- 3- It would be efficient because it is a single payer system so there is only one set of rules for provider billing to follow. The administrative costs go down by at least 6%. In Oregon now the administrative costs are 12%. Medicare is only 2%

In addition to all these benefits think about the health and welfare of your constituents. Public health is very important from the time you are born to the time you die. The people of Oregon deserve a system that works for them, is accessible for their medical needs and where costs are controlled so they can afford it.

Bev De Leonardis
737 Gibbon Rd
Central Point, Or
4-25-15

April 25, 2015

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Joint Ways and Means Committee

My name is Trayce Jensen; I've served on the Rogue River School Board for 14 years. I have no new numbers to quote to you- you've already heard the important facts from speakers more eloquent than me.

But I am trying to make sense of the fact that when I first took office in 2001, the K-12 allotment was 49% of the State's budget. Now it's barely over 39%. What happened that made public education less important? What does this say about us as a State?

I'm trying to remember a biennium when we weren't begging for adequate funding. I recall the days of on-site child development specialists, licensed librarians, activity bus routes, a complete music program, and paid head coaches for every sport. And I remember cutting all of those luxuries, and ten days from a school year.

With 7.255 billion funding, Rogue River will not be adding anything back. We will still be one of the lowest paying districts in Southern Oregon. While our great community attracts the very best teachers and staff, we aren't able keep them very long. To do that, we need adequate, stable funding, a phrase I've repeated so many times in the last 14 years, because it has not been achieved.

One way of putting this: If you keep doing what you've always done, you'll always get what you've always gotten. Or as another saying goes, if nothing changes, nothing changes.

My take-away for you is this: the Oregon Legislature must do something different, something profound, to change the chronic under-funding of not only education, but all human services. I can't support robbing Peter to pay Paul as a viable solution.

Will we be forced to pin our hopes on future legislators? Or will you be the ones to recognize less is NOT more, that it takes what it takes to properly serve our citizens, and Oregon must find a way to do it?

In the meantime, perhaps Santa Claus will come early for Rogue River, and the Christmas Tree Bill will have a huge ornament called "K-12 Funding" on it.

Thank you for being in Grants Pass today.

And remember: It's always a great day to be a Chieftain!



Trayce Jensen
PO Box 1643
Rogue River, OR
97537

| Adult Foster Home | Other Option/ Facilities | Hourly Individual |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| \$2000 /person /month | \$6000 /person/month | \$12.00 per hour x 24 hrs |
| 24/7 care | 24/7 care | \$8640 per month |

STATE saves at least \$3000 per Elderly per month in an Adult Foster Home

For 1 Elderly \$3000 saved per month = \$ 36,000 a year

For 100 Elderly \$3000 saved per month = \$ 3,600,000.00 a year 3.6 MILLION /Year

In an Adult Foster Care Home there is 1 Caregiver per 5 Elderly

In a Facility there is 1 Caregiver to 12 Elderly

Hourly Individual 1 Caregiver to 1 Elderly



Josephine County, Oregon

Board of Commissioners: Simon Hare, Cheryl Walker, K.O. Heck

TTD# 1-800-735-2900

Diane Hoover, PhD, F.A.C.H.E.
Josephine County Public Health Director

715 NW Dimmick
Grants Pass, OR 97526

(541) 474-5325

Fax (541) 474-5353

E-mail publichealth@co.josephine.or.us

April 25, 2015

PUBLIC TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE JOINT WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE ON 04/25/2015

Good morning Co-Chairs Senator Devlin, Representative Buckley and distinguished members of the Committee. For the record, my name is Diane Hoover, and I am the Public Health Director here in Josephine County, Oregon.

I have a saying with regard to speaking in front of an audience. "Say a little, they'll use it. Say too much, they'll lose it". Therefore my remarks will be brief and well within the time allotted:

I am here today to leave you with 2 points. The first point is that State funding for public health makes a huge difference at the local level in economically challenged counties with a low tax base like ours. Josephine County ranked 32 of 33 counties in Oregon for social and economic factors that affect health. The county health rankings specifically point to unemployment rates in the double digits- that 34% of children in the county are being raised in poverty and inadequate social support is a problem. Adequate state funding allows public health to do what it is supposed to do to protect the health and safety of its vulnerable citizens. We conduct communicable disease investigations, administer Title 10 family planning and provide immunizations to prevent disease. These are services required by State Law and I genuinely appreciate the States investment into Josephine County.

The second point that I would like to leave you with is that Allcare, one of the local Coordinated Care Organizations is also making a hugely positive difference in public health at the local level. For example, in the 2012-2013 fiscal year I was facing serious staffing cuts due to declining general fund support. Allcare, in recognition of the value of public health, provided a one-year grant of \$171,000 to keep community services at status quo levels. We also recently partnered in a unique public-private collaborative that will increase access to clinical services from 1 day a week to 4 days a week, decrease the cost to government and increase billable encounters. Allcare's investment in public health allows us to provide services to all comers, regardless of insurance plan. Allcare and its innovative leadership has made this possible.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today. I would be happy to answer any questions.

April 25, 2015

Testimony in Support of **HB 2828** (2015 Regular Session of Oregon Legislature)

My name is Ivend Holen, a resident of Medford, OR at 1301 Siskiyou Blvd the past 35 years. My spouse and I are both covered by Medicare and supplemental Blue Cross, but my daughter, who also lives in Medford, is unemployed and relies on the Oregon Health Plan for her healthcare coverage, which is minimal and spotty, at best.

I strongly recommend that all the members of the Ways and Means Committee (and, indeed, all the Oregon legislators) take the time to view the film, "**The Health Care Movie**", available in both 30 and 90 minute versions. The film, produced by a US/Canadian couple, documents the personal and emotional impact that the struggle for universal health care has had on Canadians who now have access to universal health care because of the heroism of people who took a stand 50 years ago, and the continuing struggle in the US between the forces fearful of government intervention and those struggling for quality health care for all people.

Narrated by Kiefer Sutherland, grandson of former Premier of Saskatchewan, Tommy Douglas, the film arose after Lindsay Caron Epstein of Portland posted a youtube video she made of interviews of Canadians and Oregonians telling about the contrasting health care systems they live under. This revealing video inspired the film producers to contact her, and led to the film's remarkable production.*** Incorporating vintage film clips, interviews with people who participated in the struggle in Saskatchewan, and colorful and informative animations and charts, the film leaves many viewers breathless and inspired.

The full film is available to view online for a \$5 rental fee on the website, <http://thehealthcaremovie.net>, and free screenings are being regularly scheduled throughout the state by the several chapters of **Healthcare for All Oregon**. See <http://hcao.org/video-and-audio/> to see a remarkable collection of video and audio interviews and presentations made by Oregonians of all stripes on the healthcare issue. Viewers will quickly learn of the crying need for a reformed system that provides health care equitably to all of us instead of the wasteful two-tiered system we currently have that divides us between the "haves and the have nots". Viewers who reflect on these presentations will become convinced that a single-payer health care system modeled after the Canadian medicare system is needed, and that Oregonians deserve it.

Legislation similar to **HB-2828** to study the economic impact of various ways of funding health care was passed in the last session of the legislature, but was not funded. This committee needs to correct this and provide funding necessary for due consideration of the next step to bring equitable health care to all Oregonians.



Ivend Holen
1301 Siskiyou Blvd
Medford, OR 97504

*** See a 90 second clip of the film: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rae0Pllv0Ng>

Regional Solutions 2014 Project Description
Grants Pass Airport Northeast Side Taxiway

Project:

Engineering Design and E/A for a Parallel Taxiway on the NE Side of Runway 31 at Grants Pass Airport

Impacted Area:

Southern Region -- Josephine County, Oregon -- Grants Pass Airport and North Valley Industrial Park. This airport is growing in operations, especially business use of aircraft by local and regional companies like Dutch Bros, KraussCraft, Pacific Aviation NW, Mercy Flights, Rogue Valley Door, Pacific Aircraft Management and many others. A parallel taxiway is critical for 1) Safety and 2) Runway access for any new development on the NE side of the airport runway, as there is currently no more developable land with frontage road access.

Description:

This taxiway will 1) Alleviate the critical safety issue of runway incursions, and 2) Open up development on the NE side of the airport runway to allow the construction of commercial hangars which are in great demand by businesses looking to expand operations. There is currently frontage road, but no public access to the runway on the NE side. This is an impediment to economic development at the airport which would benefit the region.

Measurements and goals:

The specific number of commercial aviation activity on the airport two years prior and three years after project completion, as measured by leases, based aircraft and aircraft operations, will be an excellent measure of the effectiveness of the project.

What would happen if this project was not accomplished?

If this project is not accomplished, 1) Runway incursions will increase, and 2) There will be no incentive for commercial operations to develop facilities on the airport. Ground vehicles and aircraft are forced to cross the active runway directly in the touchdown zone up to 20 times per day. This is an "accident waiting to happen." We have already had several large businesses (KraussCraft, Oregon Lifeguard, Great Pacific Trading Company) "go elsewhere" due to lack of runway access from this area of the airport. Dutch Bros plans for expansion of aviation operations are already adversely impacted. We just lost Oregon Lifeguard Air Ambulance due to lack of commercial hangars, forcing them to split their operations between two airports and maintain two crew bases.

Does the project have strong community and agency support?

Yes. The FAA has approved a full-length taxiway on the NE side of runway 31/13 in the current Airport Layout Plan. The FAA AIP money for designing this taxiway is uncommitted however. This project will demonstrate that a firm commitment exists in the Region to build this taxiway, and once the Engineering and E/A are completed, the FAA has indicated that it will likely accelerate funding for the construction phase of the project.

Budget:

The engineering design and environmental assessment will require an estimated \$425,000 to accomplish. (The FAA will be relied-upon for funding the follow-on construction of the taxiway -- an estimated \$1,500,000.)

Are there operating or maintenance costs associated with the project?

No. There are no operating or maintenance costs associated with the engineering design and environmental assessment needed for the future construction of this taxiway.

Is this project characterized as short (1-2 years) or long term?

Short Term. The engineering design and EA can be accomplished within a year from date of funding.

Grants Pass Airport (3S8)
Project Narrative for East Side Parallel Taxiway Project, Phase 1
August 14, 2014

Josephine County (County) recently completed an Airport Master Planning process for the Grants Pass Airport that identified several projects with regard to Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) design standards set forth in Advisory Circular 150/5300-13, *Airport Design*. These projects are based on the Airport's existing Airport Reference Code (ARC) of B-II and include:

- Construction of an eastside parallel Taxiway, 4000' x 35' with 3 connector taxiways (see attached sketch from approved Master Plan and Airport Layout Plan).

The total estimated Project cost to complete environmental permitting, engineering design, and construction of the entire 4,000' taxiway length (approximately \$5M) will exceed the amount of funding which may be available to Josephine County under a grant from the State's Regional Solutions program. The County's on-call aviation consultant for Grants Pass Airport, WHPacific, Inc., recommends taking incremental steps for the taxiway's development as follows:

Step 1 – Complete Environmental Assessment (EA), Permitting, and Preliminary Design for the full-length taxiway project (4,000' x 35' with 3 connector taxiways). Preliminary Design will provide recommendations for phasing the taxiway's final design and construction efforts within the constraints of available funding.

Step 2 – Engineering design and preparation of construction plans and specifications (per FAA design standards) for Phase 1 work limits (+/- 2,000' taxiway length*) as approved by the County.

Step 3 – Bid and construct new Phase 1 Taxiway, connector taxiways, and associated improvements.

Step 4 – Document/preserve project data (including EA, Design data, and Phase 1 record drawings) for engineering/construction continuation when funding for additional Phases of the Taxiway's development becomes available.

Cost estimate: The preliminary estimate of Project costs for Phase 1 includes:

| Step | Est. Cost | Comments |
|-------|--------------|--|
| 1 | \$ 250,000 | Includes Environmental Assessment (EA) and (+/-) 25% project design. |
| 2 | \$ 170,000 | Includes Engineering Design and Bidding Services for Phase 1 work. * |
| 3 | \$ 1,570,000 | Includes Construction Contract costs and admin/testing/inspection of Phase 1 work. * |
| 4 | \$ 10,000 | Includes Phase 1 closeout documentation & preservation of project data |
| Total | \$ 2,000,000 | Estimated Project Costs through Phase 1 construction |

* NOTE: Estimated costs are based upon an anticipated available Project budget of \$2M

Schedule: Step 1 can begin immediately upon approval from the County for WHPacific to proceed.

[illegible]

AIRPORT LAYOUT PLAN

All Phases



CONCEPTUAL PHASE LAYOUT
PARALLEL TAXIWAY PROJECT
GRANTS PASS AIRPORT
JOSEPHINE COUNTY AIRPORTS DEPARTMENT

037651-XC-DE00-EXHIBITS

1"=200'

| | |
|-------------|------|
| DESIGNED BY | DATE |
| CHECKED BY | DATE |
| APPROVED BY | DATE |
| APPROVED BY | DATE |

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| CHECKED BY | DATE |
| APPROVED BY | DATE |
| APPROVED BY | DATE |

DRAFT

WHPacific

Health Care for **ALL** Oregon

Joint Ways and Means Committee

April 25th, Grants Pass, 12:30pm Hearing

My name is Mark Kellenbeck. I am the statewide legislative chair of Health Care for All Oregon, Oregon's campaign for publically fund universal health care.

In 2013 the legislature passed HB 3260 the Oregon Health Care Study bill which outlines the requirements of a study to determine the best method of delivering and financing health care in Oregon. While the bill was not funded the cost of the study was estimate to be \$200,000.

Today in 2015 after revisiting firms and requesting RFP quotes from new firms the estimate for the study outlined in HB 3260 is \$350,000. The Oregon study is more comprehensive than studies done in other states like Vermont and New York; and while benefitting from the work done in these a serious amount of work must still be done that is unique to HB 3260 and Oregon.

For certain the state and its citizens are best served by a study that fully meets the requirements of HB 3260 and one that will be widely supported and respected.

HCAO believes the Oregon Health Care study is a corner stone of an improved health care system resulting in better health care for those working and living in Oregon; at significantly less money than we are paying today.



Mark S. Kellenbeck

mkellenbeck@msn.com

541-499-1319



Joint Ways and Means Committee

April 25th, Grants Pass, 12:30pm Hearing

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For certain the state and its citizens are best served by a study that fully meets the requirements of HB 3260 and one that will be widely supported and respected.

HCAO believes the Oregon Health Care study is a corner stone of an improved health care system resulting in better health care for those working and living in Oregon; at significantly less money than we are paying today.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark S. Kellenbeck". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Mark S. Kellenbeck

mkellenbeck@msn.com

541-499-1319

I am a victim of domestic abuse. We were together for 20 years. He had a master's degree in psychology. He was a respected drug and alcohol counselor. He could have been your neighbor.

When I left him, I had only the cloths on my back and no money. I ended up at the women's shelter in which I was allowed to stay only 2 weeks due to funding. It is based on how many people are served and those without children count less than those with children. I was then dropped off at the local homeless shelter. There is no help for women like me without children other than there. We are counted less than by our abusers and then by those who fund these programs meant to help us.

Yes there are grants for domestic violence but you must have the children with you at the time you apply. Those who have children in their care also can receive TENF grants along with this grant. What little funding that is available goes mostly to those with children in their care such as domestic violence grants, TENF grants and Child Support payments. I could not even apply for any of these because I have no children.

However, some women leave their children with their abusers because the children can remain safely in the home while they cannot. The abuser may also have the only car and the money to take care of them. There is no general assistance for those of us in need and no other resources available to us.

I had a choice as most victims do in my case, to go back to my abuser or make it on my own. I was lucky, I made it on my own after living on the streets. But unless you make all domestic violence grants open to all victims with or without children some will go back and some of those will die at the hand of their abusers or by suicide. If I had gone back I would have killed my self just out of the hopelessness I felt.

I ask you to make those funds already available for domestic violence grants open to all victims without regard to sex, age, or family status. I also ask you to fund the gap for those of us that have no other support available to us. Our lives depend on it. Thank you.

Mildred M.
402 N. E. D Street
Grants Pass Or. 97526



Dear LawMakers,

My Name is Emily Medina I am 13. Outdoor School is important to me because kids get to have fun and get to meet people from other schools. Please save outdoor school for us and ~~the~~ also make outdoor school for all middle school grades.

Please



Save

Outdoor

School

Sincerely

Emily Medina, 7th, Lents, Portland

Dear legislators,

I am an 8th Grade Student from Grants Pass, and I want you to support HB2648 to Send all 5th Grade Students in Oregon to outdoor School.

Outdoor School is important because It helps kids learn with hands on. I know Some kids learn from Hearing, watching or Hands on. Outdoor School does all of these things.

I loved outdoor school because its fun to be outside and learn about Science with friends and we would also meet new People!

Please Support HB2648 and Send all kids in Oregon to outdoor School!

Sincerely, Montana.

Take Student's To

Dear legislators,

I am an 8th grade student from Grants Pass and I would like you to support HB2648 to send all 5th and 6th grade students in Oregon to Outdoor School. I believe that every student should be given the opportunity to go to Outdoor School. Outdoor School is a hands on and memorable Science learning experience. I loved meeting new people and getting to learn Science outdoors. Every student should be able to experience outdoor school. Please support HB2648 and send all kids in Oregon to Outdoor School!

Sincerely,

Carrie

Outdoor School!!

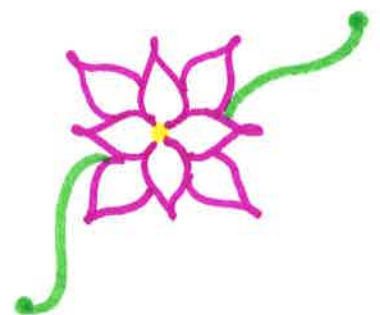
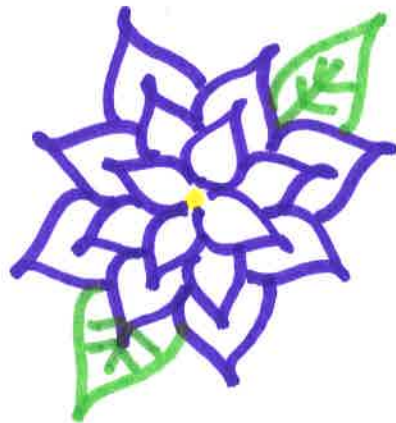
Dear legislators,

I am an 8th grade student from Grants Pass and I want you to support HB2698 to send all 5th and 6th grade students in Oregon to Outdoor School.

Outdoor School for me was such a fun time, I learned so much. My school visited the Oregon Caves and Deer Creek during our ecosystems unit in Earth Science my 6th grade year. The memories that I made on my trip are still fresh in my mind and I believe it would be great for every student to have an Outdoor School experience. It's such a beautiful thing to be able to learn outdoors and have hands on activities and visuals. And every child should get the opportunity. Please support HB2698 and send all kids in Oregon to Outdoor School

Sincerely,

Becks



Dear legislators,

I'm an eighth grader at South Middle School in Grants Pass and I would greatly appreciate it if you could support HB2648 to send all fifth and sixth grade students, in Oregon, to Outdoor School. As a sixth grader my class went to Outdoor School for a day and it was so fun. It was a chance for a young kid with a lot of energy to learn but be moving around and not just sitting all day. This program would be very beneficial for young students. In today's society too you see kids outside and appreciating nature less and less. If we had Outdoor School though kids will learn what they learn in school but also how to love and enjoy nature for all it's worth. So I hope this letter has given you a student's point of view for this subject. So please support HB2648 and send all the energetic kids of Oregon to Outdoor School.

Sincerely,

Kaila
(a caring student)



Dear legislators,

I am an 8th grade student from Grants Pass and I want you to support HB2648 to send all 5th and 6th grade students in Oregon to Outdoor School.

In 6th grad I attended Outdoor School, but it was only for a day. Sad right? I know. I loved Outdoor School because I was able to bond with people outside of the classroom and bond with nature. I think it would be awesome to stay for a whole week! Just think how much students would learn about science outside of the classroom!

Please support HB2648 and send all kids in Oregon to Outdoor School!

Sincerely, Shelby



Outdoor School!

I am an 8th Grade student from Grants Pass and I would like you to support HB2648 to send All 5th and 6th grade students in Oregon to Outdoor School. Outdoor school is important because it gives kids a great and fun learning experience. By letting them go for 5 days, you are benefitting every kid. I want Outdoor School for everyone so that no one gets left behind. ~Sincerely Noah~

I am an 8th grade student from Grant's Pass and I want you to support the bill to HB2648 to send all 5th and 6th grad students in Oregon to outdoor school

- Outdoor is important because kids could learn a lot about their surroundings.
 - I love outdoor school because it teaches me about wild life and nature
 - I want outdoor school because every one should be able to enjoy the fun of staying out side and enjoying nature and learning at the same time
- Please support HB2648 and send all kids in Oregon to outdoor school!

— Sincerely, Bailey

Dear legislators

I AM an 8th grade student from grants Pass
and I want you to support HB2698 to send
all 5th and 6th grade students in Oregon to out
Door School.

out Door is important because, learning the out
doors and getting to know nature is fun, at times
calming, and can makes kids get creative.
when I went to out doors in fruitdale
I enjoyed every ounce of it. It was fun
and I got to learn new things about
nature

I want every one to go to
out door school because I want
every one to experience what I experienced
Please support HB2698 and send
all kids in Oregon to out Door school
sincerely
garrett

Dear Legislators,

I am in 8th grade student from Grants Pass and I want you to support HB2648 to send all 5th and 6th grade students in Oregon to outdoor school.

Outdoor is important because kids can just have fun learn about new things and kids could meet new people have new things and they could just have a great time.

I think students would love outdoor school because they can just get out of the house and try something new in there life. If I was in 6th or 5th grade school I would totally would want to go for a week.

I want outdoor school for everyone because every one would have fun all the counselors the kids in everyone it would be a great idea.

Please support HB2648 and send all kids in Oregon to outdoor school

Sincerely,
Debbie



Fun!



Dear LawMakers,

My Name is Emily Medina I am 13. Outdoor School is important to me because kids get to have fun and get to meet people from other schools. Please save outdoor school for us and ~~the~~ also make outdoor school for all middle school grades.

Please



Save



Outdoor

School

Sincerely

Emily Medina, 7th, Lents, Portland

Dear Legislators,



I am an 8th grade student from Grants - Pass and I want you to support HB2648 to send all 5th and 6th grade students in Oregon to Outdoor School!!!

When I attended the Oregon caves and Deer Creek for the day it was so much fun and I learned so much about the environment and how the wildlife lives. Outdoor School gives students a great opportunity to get out of the text books in class and have a hands-on experience, and they should be able to have a different perspective on learning. I want Outdoor School for everyone because everyone should experience Outdoor School. Please support HB2648 and send all the kids in Oregon to Outdoor School! Sincerely,

Asha





sorry about ~~the~~ hand
writing but I am a
super active guy so I
love to be out side
and it would be cool
to do some out side
for a week!



Hello my name is Jacob Lakey

I'm in the 8th grade. I would love to
do the week long out door school next and help
the 6th Graders on their journeys. That's what
would Love to do.

Love,
Jacob Lakey

Dear legislators,

I am an 8th grade student from Grants Pass and I want you to support **HB2648** to send all 5th & 6th grade students in Oregon to Outdoor School.

I want Outdoor School because my younger brother will be in 5th grade next year and he loves the outdoors and loves to learn. It

would be an amazing experience for him. Please support **HB2648** and send all kids in Oregon to Outdoor School!

Sincerely, Maiah

Dear Legislators,

I am an 8th grade student from Grants Pass and I want you to support HB2648 to send all 5th and 6th grade students in Oregon to Outdoor School.

When I was in 6th grade, we took a two day field trip to the Oregon Caves and Deer Creek. So far, those two days were the best out of my entire middle school and elementary experience. I was fascinated by all the wild life, and never having even went camping before it was a whole new level of Science class.


I would love to return as a highschool student counselor to share the wonderful trip I experienced myself, and for an entire week. It changed my perspective on science and how important it truly is.

I'm asking you to please consider allowing young students to have this opportunity.

Sincerely,

Lauren.

Dear legislators,

 I am an 8th grade student from Grants Pass and I want you to support HB2648 to send all 5th and 6th grade students in Oregon to Outdoor School.

I want outdoor school for everyone because when I went I had a great experience. So I just think it would be fair to let the kids of this generation go and have the same experience I had.

Please support HB2648 and send all kids in Oregon to Outdoor School!!

Sincerely,
Alycia

Dear legislators,

I am an 8th grade student from Grants Pass, and I want you to support HB2648 to send all 5th and 6th graders in Oregon to Outdoor School. Outdoor School is important to kids because they learn about the wild life and nature outside the city. I remember going to Outdoor School in 6th grade, Mostly because I went the day after I got my braces on and I couldn't eat anything for the whole trip! So as fun as it was to suffer through my hurting mouth, outdoor School was the best field trip I've ever been on! We got to walk in a stream to catch tadpoles to examine them. That was one of my favorite parts! The whole trip was so fun, and I wish we could go again this year! Every kid should get to experience the trip because it's so fun and informational, I learned things that I didn't know before! So please support HB2648 and send all kids in Oregon to Outdoor School!

Sincerely,

Kenzie

Dear Legislators,

I am an 8th grade student from Grants Pass and I want you to support HB2648 to send all 5th and 6th grade students in Oregon to Outdoor School.

Outdoor School is important because it teaches us new things. I loved outdoor school because it was really fun, personally one of the best outdoor experiences I've ever had. I want outdoor school for everyone because it taught me new things in a fun way.

Please support HB2648 and send all kids in Oregon to Outdoor School!

Sincerely,

Justin

Dear Lawmakers,

My name is Aaron Hernandez and I'm 13 years old in 7th grade at Lent in Portland, OR. I went to Howard for outdoor school. I had fun and it was enjoyable. I met new kids which were really funny and cool. I really wish that it can be 6 days 5 nights because it was really rushed and hard to understand because it went really fast. I have a younger Brother and I want to see him with a white on his face because he now has 6 days and 5 nights. Please save outdoor school because 6th grade will never be the same.

Sincerely, Aaron
7th, Lent K-8, Portland

April 2015

Dear Lawmakers,

I am a retired teacher with most of my experience at the fourth, fifth, and sixth grade levels. My husband is retired from the National Park Service as a Resource Management Specialist. Together we have been involved in Outdoor Education Programs in Florida, Oklahoma, and most recently in the Outdoor School Program in the Baker 5J School District in Oregon.

Many students in Oregon are not exposed to contact with the outdoor world around them. We urge your support for HR 2648.

- Passage of this bill will allow all 5th or 6th grade students to experience the hands-on learning needed to understand the environmental relationships that exist within their local communities and in the world at large, as well as the necessity of maintaining these healthy relationships.
- In programs such as those established by the passage of this bill, students learn collaborative skills, self-confidence, and social skills in working with other students to meet the goals of an assigned activity.

Here in Northeast Oregon, we have many opportunities to interact with our surroundings. As instructors in Baker 5J District's Outdoor School for ten years, we have seen students grow in their understanding of forest lands, wetlands, conservation, wildlife habitat, recreational and survival skills.

Please support this worthwhile HR 2648,

Thomas M. and Barbara E. Taylor
40049 Rhody Road
Baker City, OR 97814
541-894-2473
ghosttrail@msn.com

A photograph of a couple walking away from the camera on a sandy beach. In the background, a large, prominent rock formation (Haystack Rock) rises from the water. Other smaller rock formations are visible further back. The sky is a clear, deep blue. The overall scene is peaceful and scenic.

INVEST *in* OREGON

Recommendations to the
2015 Oregon Legislature

YEARS OF CUTS

Our state legislators are facing a unique moment of opportunity.

Since the mid-90's, Oregon has been faced with a series of seemingly impossible decisions. The country's lowest corporate taxes combined with dried-up revenue streams have put our state legislators in the position of needing to cut services time and again, often pitting the needs of one group of Oregonians against the needs of another group. These false dichotomies—kids vs. seniors, childcare vs. college funding, students vs. retirees, urban vs. rural—have created large class sizes, thousand-person waiting lists, and deep economic and cultural rifts in our state.

After years of having only bad options from which to choose, it seemed that in 2015 the economic recovery had finally worked its way to Oregon, yet not all have benefited. The economy still has problems, the largest corporations and the wealthiest Oregonians have benefited the most from the recovery, underemployment persists, and wages for working families are still lower today than they were 10 years ago. But, our economy is growing, unemployment is now at its lowest level since 2007, and companies are hiring. And just when

it seemed that the economic recovery would put us on track to begin to fill budget holes, Oregon's uniquely arcane tax policy—the "Kicker"—is now expected to kick, setting our revenue back \$350 million or more. The lion's share of the Kicker will benefit higher income Oregonians residing in the Portland Metro region.

This \$350 million budget hole, combined with a tax structure that has the lowest corporate taxes in the country, puts Oregon state legislators back in the same position of needing to make lose-lose choices: which of the deep cuts would they keep?

It does not have to be this way - we do not need to accept the shortest school years, threats to quality care for our seniors, the longest waiting lists for childcare, or whole communities stuck at the economic margins. A diverse coalition called *Invest in Oregon* has formed to highlight our greatest budget needs and identify the opportunities in our current tax structure and budget for all of us to invest in a better Oregon.

Just when it seemed that Oregon was on track to begin to fill the holes of the Great Recession, the "Kicker" is now expected to kick, setting our revenue back \$349 million.



INVESTMENTS

Cuts to vital public services and schools have left their marks on hundreds of thousands. Virtually no Oregonian was left unaffected by cuts to safety net services, our schools, and services meant to increase opportunity. Moreover, Oregon's economy as a whole has taken a hit by cutting services through lack of job creation, missed federal funds, and wasted opportunities for rural development.

With our current tax and budget system—where working families carry the majority of the tax burden and corporations get out of paying their fair share— we would not be able to make all the investments Oregon needs, even if the Kicker didn't "kick." However, by focusing resources on priority programs, we can at least maintain services by filling holes in many departments to just keep status quo. This is not the long-term solution, but it's a foundational investment now that allows us to build a better future.

1

INVESTING IN OUR KIDS

FUNDING OUR SCHOOLS

Cuts in education over the last 25 years have hurt our kids and Oregon's ability to fund the schools our students deserve. Over the last eight years alone, class size has increased by nearly 20 percent just in the elementary grades – giving Oregon the third largest class sizes in the nation. Oregon now has one of the shortest school years in the nation, and amongst the lowest graduation rates. This means less individualized attention for children and less instruction – putting them at risk of falling behind. Every \$100 million we invest in our kids is the equivalent of 1,100 teaching jobs or a full week of school for more than 570,000 Oregon students. We should be investing in schools to give every child the opportunity to succeed. Thank means smaller class sizes and more funding for programs such as music, art, P.E., career and technical education, and libraries.

In the past biennium, the Legislature was able to invest additional resources that slowed the cuts and stabilized funding. It is finally time to start adding back programs like music, art, P.E., libraries, close the achievement gap, as well as reduce class size and provide a full school year. Without additional investment in our schools, school districts will face difficult choices again – deciding whether to cut teachers and raise class size, or deepen cuts to programs that promote the love of learning in

all students. *We must start re-investing in our schools so that all kids have a chance to succeed, to just hold the line we need to get to try to get to \$7.5 billion or find ways to increase local resources.*

QUALITY AND ACCESSIBLE CHILDCARE

There are currently more 2,500 families on the waitlist for Employment Related Daycare (ERDC), meaning that people who could likely go back to work are either delaying employment until they can find affordable childcare, or they are shuffling their kids between different low-cost options to hold their job. If we want to grow our economy, we must invest in childcare services for low-income families to ensure people can go to work and invest in the low-wage childcare providers. *An investment of \$60 million is needed to make sure that we can limit the waiting list and make needed improvements to the program. To begin cutting the wait list will cost a minimum of \$20 million of new investment.*

UNIVERSITIES AND COMMUNITY COLLEGES

As state investment in higher education has declined, Oregon has shifted the cost of funding college to the students. Tuition has doubled in the past 25 years and college is out of reach for many Oregonians who are striving to get a degree. Students of all ages who are able to pursue a higher degree are leaving college with unsustainable debt, working multiple jobs, and having to take longer to get a degree.

We must reinvest in post-secondary education before it is no longer accessible for Oregon students. Campuses will raise tuition ranging from 3.7 - 7.6 percent at their current budget. Campuses will not be able to invest in critical student support services that have been cut since the recession hit in 2007. Without additional investment in universities and community colleges, tuition will continue to rise and Oregon students will be priced out of an education.

- ◆ *An investment of \$85 million in our universities brings down tuition, increases quality education for students, makes sure the universities invest in financial aid, and invests in our regional campuses.*
- ◆ *An additional investment of \$15 million for community colleges helps reduce tuition increases and keeps class offerings available throughout the state.*

HEALTH CARE FOR ALL KIDS

In Oregon, some low-income children do not have full access to the Oregon Medicaid Health Care for All Children Program. This means that many of these children must delay or go without essential doctor visits

and medications. Lack of health insurance undermines children's health: children without health insurance are less likely to see a doctor and get the care they need, which results in unnecessary and expensive hospitalizations, household debt, and increased childhood mortality. *To take the first steps towards providing all kids health care we need an investment of \$10 million.*

EARLY CHILDHOOD INVESTMENTS

Children develop fastest in their earliest years, and many are growing up in homes with a parent facing poverty, depression, or other risk factors that will place barriers to the child's success. Presently, less than 20 percent of at risk families receive home visits from evidence-based, voluntary programs like Healthy Families Oregon. These home visits provide individually tailored resources and support to expectant parents and families with young children. As children grow older, waitlists exist across the state for children from low-income families for affordable, quality preschool programs. *Investing an additional \$10 million in Healthy Families Oregon would allow more families who meet risk factors get this critical service. A \$30 million investment through private and public child care providers will dramatically expand preschool access to low-income families.*



INVESTING IN OUR MOST VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

SENIORS AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

The program Oregon has built over the years for seniors and people with disabilities has led the nation in ensuring that people can live with dignity, independence and choice in their care. While more than 31,000 low-income seniors in Oregon depend on Medicaid to be able to afford care each month, data demonstrates that Medicaid rates have not kept pace with rising costs of care. Between 2010 and 2015, the cost of delivering vital services has risen by as much as 7 percent annually, while on average Medicaid has risen by only 1 percent annually during the same period. A 2011 study showed that states that increased Medicaid reimbursement rates the most had the greatest improvements in quality outcomes for low-income seniors in home- and community-based care settings.

An additional investment of \$70 million will make sure that we cover the basic costs of the program without significant new investments. These resources would cover caseload increases, ensure the Oregon Project Independence can cover the needed population, prevent increasing costs from coming at the expense of quality services, provide needed training and other supports for family caregivers, and provide basic maintenance of effort for seniors and people with disabilities and the people that care for them. *With the federal matching rate for most of the services for seniors and people with disabilities, of \$2 for every \$1 spent, the investment of \$70 million above the co-chair's budget can leverage as much as \$140 million of federal funds to make sure that we can invest in the services family care givers and seniors and people with disabilities rely on.*

PEOPLE WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Because of services provided through the Office of Developmental Disability Services, Oregonians who have developmental or intellectual disabilities are able to access care that is person-centered, community inclusive, and supportive of the discovery and development of each individual's unique gifts, talents and abilities.

An additional investment of \$50 million is needed to make sure that we can cover case load increases, cover the basics of increasing costs, make sure that state facilities



called Stabilization and Crisis Units are safe for consumers and workers, find the workers to provide needed support, increase the pay of some of the lowest paid direct support providers in the state (average salary \$9.50-12.50), and keep Oregon's promise to the Fairview Trust. *An investment of \$50 million above the co-chair's budget could leverage as much as \$150 million in federal funds and make sure we invest in the services families rely on.*

MENTAL HEALTH

In 2013, Oregon's mental health system started a six-year plan to ensure kids could get the services and interventions they need, adults could get the support they need to stay in safe environments and off the streets, and people with addiction issues could get back into their communities through adequately funded addiction support programs.

The first steps were taken last session; if not continued, much-needed progress will be stopped and it will cost the system more money in the long run. *An investment of \$94.5 million is needed to prioritize this critical work and preserve 2013 investments.*

TAX CREDITS FOR WORKING FAMILIES

Working families are struggling to make ends meet. Reports indicate that as costs such as gas, rent, food and heat continue to increase, incomes are falling behind. Thousands of Oregonians are going to work every day and still can't make ends meet for their families.

By expanding the Earned Income Credit (EIC), the Working Family Child Care Credit (WFC), and Child and Dependent Care Credit (CDC), we put money back into families' budgets—money that will be spent directly on local businesses, further bolstering local economies. *As much as \$20 million into these tax credits would make a big difference in helping a family get through the year.*

INVESTING IN SAFE COMMUNITIES

JUSTICE REINVESTMENT

Already, the numbers demonstrate that the justice reinvestment strategy is working at keeping people out of prison and as members of our communities. In one year, from 2013 to 2014, we have seen a 3.8 percent drop in prison intakes because of investment in programs such as GED classes, mental health services, substance abuse treatment, community-based services and sanctions, programs to assist the transition from prison to the community, transitional housing and crisis services, additional full-time probation and parole officers. Local public safety officials know what works in their jurisdictions. Justice reinvestment provides them with the resources and the flexibility to make their communities safer, while also reducing the number of people entering prison. *To continue to fully fund the justice reinvestment work and to keep people in our communities, there needs to be an additional investment of \$38.5 million.*

OREGON PUBLIC DEFENSE SERVICES

Public defenders can earn as little as one-third of what district attorneys and assistant attorney generals make, while being asked to carry heavier workloads and increasingly complicated cases. Even with efforts to reinvest in our justice system, there is no way to control costs unless everyone gets proper and equal representation.

If we do not invest in good public defenders, we can't expect good outcomes in public safety. *To get to parity and work towards a fair justice system, the Office of Public Defense needs an investment of \$22 million.*

CORRECTIONS

While Oregon is making progress in prioritizing better prevention efforts and addressing profiling, the current state budget does nothing to address the overuse of emergency beds, some of which have been in place for years. The current staffing load at the Department of Corrections is unsustainable; without an investment now, excessive overtime, poor morale, and unsafe conditions will continue to escalate in our prisons.

An investment of \$17.2 million is needed to fulfill the



recommendation from a recent staffing review, which found a significant need for additional staff to make sure that both workers and inmates are safe.

PUBLIC HEALTH

The state and county public health infrastructure is critical for promoting effective strategies to address chronic and acute disease, protect our food and water from infectious diseases, and prepare for adverse events ranging from floods to Ebola. Oregon currently ranks 46th out of 50 states in its investment in its public health system.

Investments in public health are critical for both promoting overall health, and also meeting our targets in reduced costs through health care transformation. It is therefore critical that we maintain our current investment in public health. *An investment of \$8 million is necessary to reverse recent funding trends, backfill reductions, ensure community capacity building to understand health needs, and restore critical Disease Investigation Specialist positions in four of the largest local health departments.*

RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

While the economy has recovered in much of the urban core, many parts of rural Oregon still face double-digit unemployment rates and dwindling services.

Reinvestment is crucial to this area, with focus on two programs in particular: investment to develop water resources in places like the Umatilla and Klamath basins, and an expansion of regional economic development strategies. *\$30 million would retain and create jobs in Oregon through a Working Forests and Working Farms Finance Initiative.*

POTENTIAL WAYS TO INVEST

The no-win choices that have been the result of Great Recession economics have left their mark on all Oregonians, including our legislators. Cuts to vital services have been deep, and with our current unbalanced tax system, there are not enough resources to reverse the cuts of the last two decades. But through strong leadership and thoughtful budgeting, closing loopholes and updating our tax system could make many of these crucial investments and reinvestments possible.

There is a better way forward.

The Invest in Oregon Coalition has identified a series of budget improvements where we could potentially find additional resources. This list is not exhaustive, and only some of them are possible this session. We see this as a starting point for the desperately needed debate around building a future where Oregon can invest in the services that we all rely on.

REFORM CORPORATE GIVEAWAYS THAT FAVOR ONE OREGON COUNTY (REFORM GAIN SHARE)

This revenue option gives counties General Fund dollars to “offset” local property tax breaks for economic development. In other words, the state currently pays counties to give tax breaks to corporations—corporate tax breaks that are funded with money taken directly from services like schools and public safety.

Oregon’s school children shouldn’t have to pay for corporate tax breaks through fewer teachers and fuller classrooms. Right now, nearly all the Gain Share payments in Oregon go to Washington County. The county and the city of Hillsboro—flush with cash—propose to use this money to build convention centers and change one-way streets into two-way streets.

The state economists’ March forecast predicts the cost of Gain Share will be \$94.9 million in 2015-17. The original purpose of Gain Share was to make sure local governments could serve new residents that accompanied big new job projects. If the state

adjusted the formula for Gain Share and simply paid for new jobs created and eliminated the extra pay for retaining jobs, most of the resources could provide for critical services.

REDUCE WASTEFUL GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS (CUT SERVICES AND SUPPLIES)

The Governor’s budget calls for a 11 percent increase in services and supplies in the General Fund and Lottery Funds, which includes travel, contracts, and supplies. We need to streamline services and supplies and put that money back into services that Oregonians care about. By cutting the proposed increase to 6 percent, we could save nearly \$70 million for services.

CLOSE THE ZERO-TAX LOOPHOLE FOR BIG CORPORATIONS

Thanks to a recent court decision called Con-way, corporations can now use tax credits to pay less than the minimum tax. Credits applied against the minimum tax cost \$9 million in 2012, and the cost is growing. Nearly 400 corporations were able to reduce their income tax bill to \$0 in 2012 and most of the savings went to corporations with over \$100 million in Oregon sales. Closing this loophole would raise \$20 million in this biennium.

Oregon’s
school children
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pay for corporate
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teachers and
fuller classrooms.

TAX E-CIGARETTES

The use of electronic cigarettes is skyrocketing. These devices deliver nicotine in thousands of flavors, attracting a new generation of young “smokers.” As the number of health problems and even poisonings from e-cigarettes goes up, it is more and more clear that the state will have to regulate these products to protect the public’s health. Depending on how the tax is applied, this could raise \$21-\$60 million for this biennium.

LIFT THE LUXURY CIGAR TAX

In Oregon, cigars are taxed at 65 percent of the wholesale price, up to 50 cents per cigar. That means the effective state tax rate on premium cigars is much less than the tax on cheaper cigars. In FY2014, nearly 1.9 million cigars sold in Oregon were subject to the 50-cent tax cap. While these cigars can retail for more than \$10 or more apiece, the tax cap ensures they are taxed less than a pack of cigarettes (which, incidentally, contains less tobacco). Taxpayers shouldn’t subsidize luxury cigars. Eliminating the tax cap could generate more than \$10 million each biennium.

INCREASE CIGARETTE TAXES

Oregon has low cigarette taxes compared to our neighboring states—we could increase taxes by \$1.50/pack and still be lower than Washington. Cigarette taxes encourage people to quit smoking, especially when coupled with increased investment in prevention and education. Tobacco kills 7,000 Oregonians each year, with 800 deaths due to secondhand smoke alone. That means in addition to raising revenue, cigarette tax increases also reduce health care costs and save taxpayers money. To get the most benefit out of a tax increase, 25 percent of the new funds could be directed to Oregon’s evidence-based Tobacco Prevention and Education Program (TPEP) and chronic disease prevention. Raising the cigarette tax by \$1.50/pack would raise as much as \$245 million a biennium, even after investing in prevention there would be resources available to re-invest in services.

STREAMLINE EDUCATIONAL EXPENDITURES

In the past few years, decisions were made to “target” specific education programs in lieu of adequately funding education as a whole, which caused larger class sizes and shortened school years. Those targeted investments went out as grants to districts large enough to have grant writers on staff, and while they have helped specific districts in areas such as early literacy programs, they fall far short of helping all our students. By shifting those “targeted” funds into the base budget for K-12 that would mean \$75 million more for all of our schools to reduce class sizes.

END MORTGAGE TAX BREAKS FOR THE TOP 10 PERCENT

Allowing taxpayers to deduct home mortgage interest is a policy that promotes home ownership. However, without a cap on the amount of mortgage interest that can be deducted, taxpayers end up subsidizing mortgages on multi-million dollar estates. Eligible taxpayers with incomes below \$100,000/year deduct an average \$9,000 in home mortgage interest, while the average deduction for taxpayers making over \$1 million a year is more than twice that. Capping the maximum amount of the home mortgage interest deduction at \$10,000 would only affect higher income households, would make Oregon’s tax system less regressive, and increase revenues by approximately \$80M for this biennium.

STOP TAX GIVEAWAYS THAT DON’T CREATE JOBS, GROW THE ECONOMY

One example of a tax credit that doesn’t fulfill a strategic priority for the state is the long-term care insurance tax credit, which is due to sunset in 2016, costs around \$10 million per year and is mainly claimed by higher-income taxpayers. Long-term care is expensive, and so is long-term care insurance; unfortunately, having long-term care insurance is no guarantee that policyholders won’t encounter financial hardship when they need long-term care. Many policies only kick in after 90 days, and three months of intensive care can rapidly deplete a family’s resources. Instead of subsidizing insurance policies, funds would be better spent directly on seniors and people with disabilities. This is just one example of a tax credit that does not meet a strategic investment; we encourage further review of tax credits to see if there are others that are not meeting the goals that it was created for.

INVEST THE KICKER IN CRITICAL SERVICES

Higher-than-expected revenues are on track to trigger the Kicker, which would return around \$350 million in personal income taxes. The lion’s share of the Kicker will benefit higher income Oregonians residing in the Portland Metro region, while most taxpayers would get less than \$100 back. Not only does the Kicker make Oregon’s tax system more regressive, it also reduces funds to invest in education, services and infrastructure. Ideally, the \$350 million Kicker would be reinvested into critical services that Oregonians care about. If that is not possible, lawmakers should come up with options to make sure that wealthiest Oregonians don’t get a disproportionate amount of the Kicker, through a cap on the Kicker or a surcharge, and the money saved from giving everyone a more equal amount could be invested back into priorities for Oregonians.

INVEST IN OREGON

The year 2015 is our opportunity to re-invest in the services that Oregonians rely on. The economy is starting to get back on track, job growth is consistent, and corporations have record profits. But because of our corporate tax structure and the “kicker” we once again will be making cuts and not investing in services Oregonians rely on.

We know that we will not solve all the funding problems this biennium, but we hope that the Legislature will look to close loopholes, streamline services, and update our tax system in ways that allow us to invest in a better Oregon.



INVEST IN OREGON: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Since the mid-90's, Oregon has been faced with a series of seemingly impossible decisions. The country's lowest corporate taxes combined with dried-up revenue streams have put our state legislators in the position of needing to cut services time and again, often pitting the needs of one group of Oregonians against the needs of another group. These false dichotomies—kids vs. seniors, childcare vs. college funding, students vs. retirees, urban vs. rural—have created large class sizes, thousand-person waiting lists, and deep economic and cultural rifts in our state.

After years of having only bad options from which to choose, it seemed that in 2015 the economic recovery

had finally worked its way to Oregon. And just when it seemed that this trend would put us on track to begin to fill the holes, Oregon's uniquely arcane tax policy—the "Kicker"—is now expected to kick, setting our revenue back \$350 million or more.

It does not have to be this way—a coalition called Invest in Oregon has formed to highlight our greatest budget needs and identify the opportunities in our current tax structure and budget for all of us to invest in a better Oregon. *While we will not be able to fund all of it this session, we need to take steps to fill the holes with the biggest impacts and make sure we are trying to keep programs stable without cut backs.*

INVESTING IN THE MOST VULNERABLE

| | |
|--|----------------|
| Seniors and People with Disabilities | \$70 million |
| People with Developmental Disabilities | \$50 million |
| Mental Health | \$94.5 million |
| Tax Credits for Working Families | \$20 million |

INVESTING IN OUR KIDS

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| Funding our Schools | \$250 million |
| Quality and Accessible Childcare | \$60 million |
| Universities and Community Colleges | \$100 million |
| Health Care for All Kids | \$10 million |
| Early Learning Investments | \$40 million |

INVESTING IN SAFE COMMUNITIES

| | |
|--------------------------------|----------------|
| Justice Reinvestment | \$38.5 million |
| Oregon Public Defense Services | \$22 million |
| Corrections | \$17.2 million |
| Public Health | \$8 million |
| Rural Development Programs | \$30 million |

| | |
|--------------|------------------------|
| Total | \$810.2 million |
|--------------|------------------------|

INVEST IN OREGON: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



The Invest in Oregon Coalition has identified a series of budget improvements where we could potentially find additional resources. This list is not exhaustive, and only some of them are possible this session. We see this as a starting point for the desperately needed debate around building a future where Oregon can invest in the services that we all rely on.

| POTENTIAL PLACES TO FIND RESOURCES | BIENNIAL SAVINGS |
|---|-------------------------|
| Reform Corporate Giveaways that Favor One Oregon County (Reform Gain Share) | \$94.5 million |
| Reduce Wasteful Government Contracts (Cut Services and Supplies) | \$70 million |
| Close the Zero Tax Loophole for Big Corporations | \$20 million |
| Tax E-Cigarettes | \$50 million |
| Lift the Luxury Cigar Tax | \$10 million |
| Increase Cigarette Taxes | \$245 million |
| Streamline Education Expenditures | \$75 million |
| End Mortgage Tax Breaks for the Top 10% | \$80 million |
| Stop Tax Giveaways that Don't Create Jobs or Grow the Economy | \$20 million |
| Invest the Kicker in Critical Services | \$350 million (current) |
| Total | \$1.014 Billion |



Invest in Oregon

REPORT PUBLISHED BY THE
INVEST IN OREGON COALITION



OREGON
STUDENT
ASSOCIATION

Oregon
PTA
everychild.onevoice.*



Authorized and Printed In-House by the Oregon Education Association

April 25, 2015

Oregon Legislature Joint Ways & Means Committee

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on Oregon's budget.

I had the privilege to lead a campaign for the May 2014 primary to establish a service district for the Southern Oregon Research and Extension Center (SOREC).

I learned amazing things about Extension. I learned that our Master Gardener program is the largest county-wide program in the State (only the City of Portland's is larger). I learned that about 1500 youth participate in 4-H each year, not only raising animals but learning about the arts, budgeting, the science of clean water and healthy forests, public speaking, computers, community and youth leadership, and many other subjects. I learned that Extension holds more than 200 classes each year covering things like how to thin forests, prune trees, make compost, preserve food, and age in a healthy way. I learned that Extension supports a natural resources education program in our local schools. I learned that Extension responded to more than 40,000 individual contacts in 2012. I learned that pear trees in our valley were dying off in the 1950s and Extension stepped in to identify and solve the problem. Extension kept our pear industry alive.

I learned that each program at Extension is like one big, extended family. 4-H families share a common bond with each other through their children. Land Stewards mentor other land owners to improve land management, with over 5,000 acres brought under management since 2009. Small woodland owners, the best forest managers in Oregon according to the Oregon Forest Research Institute (2012) share information on best practices, markets and more. Master Gardeners trade information like a stock exchange, each enhancing the others' knowledge. Food preservers trade recipes and processes. Research Station experts are like honored guests to hundreds of orchardists, vineyards, cattle ranchers, farmers and beekeepers.

I learned that these stories are repeated in every County in Oregon. People learning, caring for their community, sharing knowledge and maintaining the stewardship values of Oregon.

Extension is a fantastic investment. It has paid off for one hundred years, is doing so now, and will continue to do so for at least another hundred years. It's an investment in preparing for the future, in building good citizens for the future, in maintaining our agricultural capacity for the future. The citizens of Jackson County stepped up and said, "Yes, we'll pay our share." Now I come before you today to ask the State maintain

their support for this proven investment. Thank you for listening and thank you for your service.

Respectfully submitted,



Jack Duggan * P.O. Box 524 * (5505 Forest Creek Road) * Jacksonville, OR 97530.

Facts about Extension:

- Extension supports multi-million dollar agricultural industry in Jackson County.
- Extension programs include research on crops, pests, diseases, forage, harvest, post-harvest and marketing.
- Extension includes the Master Gardener program, a multi-faceted 4-H program, as well as educational programs for small farms, small woodlands, food preservers, land stewards and healthy living, as well as natural resources education to local schools.
- Extension contributes to Oregon economically and culturally, adding to the quality of life.
- Extension provides professional level research and education to maintain local agriculture and adapt to changing conditions.
- Extension has been serving Oregon for 100 years and the kind of services it provides has evolved to meet the changing needs of the State.
- Major programs are professional objective science-based research advice and assistance for Oregon's agricultural industry, including orchards, vineyards, small farms and niche agriculture. For example, Jackson County now has a full-time viticulturalist to support our growing wine industry.
- 4-H is one of our largest and best known programs. It is about the traditional programs where young people raise animals to show at the fair and learn record management, agricultural economics, and presentation skills, but it has also evolved into contemporary skills including the science of clean water and healthy forests, public speaking, computers and other forms of youth leadership development – over 1500 students in Jackson County each year.
- Master Gardeners help both urban and rural gardeners with assistance on everything from coping with carpenter ants and other insect pests to supporting community gardens that furnish food to local food banks.
- Master Gardener Plant Clinics provide anyone with plant identification, garden planning, and diagnosis of yard and gardening issues.

- Small Woodlot owners receive information on best management practices, fire prevention, healthy forests, harvest and marketing planning, and post-harvest forest management.
- Master Food Preservers trains farmers, gardeners and urban horticulturists on growing and preserving a wide array of food, often donating their services to community agencies.
- Rural land owners (many people moving to rural areas without experience of managing forested, riparian lands or pastures), as well as long-term landowners who want to improve management practices, get guidance on how to plan for their land. In Jackson County the Land Steward Program helps owners with management plans dealing with such areas as fire prevention, creating fire-defensible landscapes, dealing with invasive weeds, forest and woodlot management, pasture management, and other rural issues.
- For those establishing and managing Small Farms a Small Farms Program provides ongoing technical assistance while creating and supporting organizations like the League of Women Farmers.
- Natural Resources Education provides educational programs to area schools.

NEWS RELEASE

DATE: APRIL 23, 2015

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Mark Kellenbeck, 541-499-1319



Senate Health Care Committee Sets a Hearing Date, May 4, 3:00, for

Health Care for All Oregon Act

Legislators in Oregon and Washington are considering bills that would provide every resident with comprehensive health care. In Oregon, Senator Laurie Monnes Anderson, chair of the Health Care Committee of the Oregon Senate, has scheduled a hearing for a bill titled the Health Care for All Oregon Act, for Monday, May 4, at 3:00 in Hearing Room A in the Capitol in Salem. This bill, SB 631, outlines a plan to provide publicly funded universal health care for all Oregon residents. Washington's legislature had a hearing on a similar bill on Feb. 20, 2015. When enacted, it (HB 1025) would create the Washington Health Security Trust and establish universal health care for all Washington residents.

These two northwest states are not alone in considering universal health care. Across the country, activists in 17 states are working with state legislators to introduce bills that will provide publicly funded, universal health care to residents. This type of health care financing is often called single-payer because all of the funds to pay health care providers and cover related medical costs are deposited in a central institution created to manage the funds. These may be called a "trust" (Washington) or "fund" (Oregon) or "trust fund" (New York).

States with active universal health care committees represent all regions of the country. Illinois, Massachusetts, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Vermont, and Washington, like Oregon, have universal health care bills in current

Health Care for All – Oregon

legislative sessions, while California, Maine, Minnesota, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Mexico and North Carolina have committees pursuing proposals.

Benefits offered in the state proposals are similar, but because the states differ greatly in their current tax structures, their funding mechanisms probably will differ. Most bills suggest types of public funding but leave to their legislatures the final decision as to which taxes will be enacted. For example, the New York state bill, A05062, suggests a progressive payroll assessment and a progressive assessment on taxable income that is not subject to payroll assessment. Washington and Oregon fund state expenses with opposite types of taxation, Washington on a sales tax and no income tax, while Oregon has an income tax but no sales tax. Washington state's bill, HB 1025, suggests payroll assessments coupled with an individual premium to be paid by individuals whose income is more than 200 per cent of the federal poverty line. Oregon's SB 631 suggests a progressive employer payroll assessment supplemented by a progressive tax on some types of income, but in each state, the exact financing method and the amount of money to be collected are not specified.

Speaking at the Salem hearing will be: Senator Michael Dembrow, chief sponsor of SB 631. Following him will be a Power Point presentation narrated by Charlie Swanson of Eugene. Other speakers include Penny York, chair of the Corvallis City Council; Tim Roach, a retired minister who serves as Vice-President for Mid-Valley Health Care Advocates and works with the Inter-Faith committee for health care; Jason Freilinger, president of Freilinger Electronics of Silverton; Dr. Paul Hochfield, a member of Physicians for a National Health Program; Prof. Chunhuei Chi, a Public Health professor who has advised Taiwan on its National Health Program; Jo Ann Hardesty, principal partner of Consult Hardesty and former state legislator; and Rob Sisk of SEIU 503.

In addition to obvious humanitarian impulses, the motivations of health care activists who are developing the state plans include substantial cost savings and improved population health. Gerald Friedman, chair of the Economics Department of the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, did a study of New York's health proposal showing that its plan would cut overall costs by "reducing administrative bloat and monopolistic pricing." He

Health Care for All – Oregon

concluded that the plan would reduce “the cost of health care to New Yorkers even while extending and improving the provision of care” (“Economic Analysis of the New York Health Act”, executive summary, p. 2). Providing quality care to all residents also conforms with policies and goals developed by the World Health Organization.

Not in conflict with the Patient Protection and Accountable Care Act (ACA), known popularly as Obamacare, proposals in the state bills rely on one of its 90-plus provisions, including section 1332, which describes a “Waiver for State Innovation.” By using this provision, plus two other required waivers, states would qualify for funds equal to the tax credits and cost-sharing benefits provided in the ACA. A primary requirement is that the state systems provide equal or greater care than that offered through the ACA. Just as other requirements of the ACA have been phased in on a pre-determined timetable, this waiver cannot be utilized until January of 2017, but can be developed before that time.

The hearing on May 4 is after the April 21 deadline a bill must have met to be considered for a vote during the legislative session. These “courtesy” hearings are given to bills that have many supporters and co-sponsors (SB 631 has almost 30) or for other reasons are considered significant for legislators to learn about. Earlier versions of SB631 have had hearings in the House Health Care Committee in 2011 and 2013; similarly, the Washington bill has had three hearings. Typically, bills are heard in the legislature for several sessions before being brought to the floor for a vote. They are re-shaped in intervening years in response to legislative input, and then approved.

More than 30 other countries have systems similar to those being proposed by the 10 states, though countries differ in types of public financing and in some benefits. A few countries, such as Great Britain, hire and manage health care providers and are called socialized systems. In many others, such as in Canada and those proposed in the 10 states, health care providers are in the private sector.

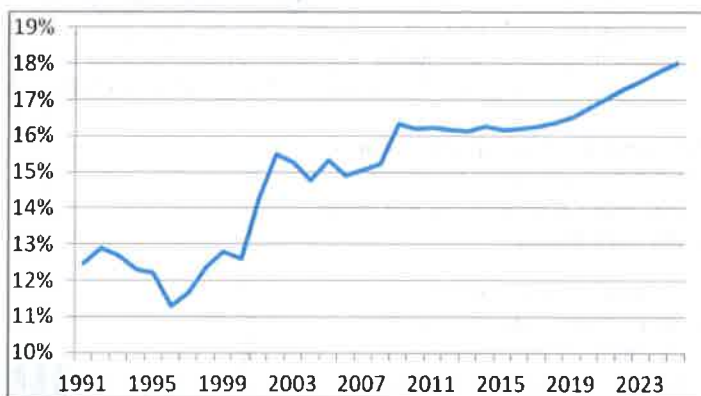


SB 631 – the Health Care for All Oregon Act

The purpose of SB 631 is to "(a) ensure access to comprehensive, quality, patient-centered and affordable, publicly funded health care for all individuals living or working in Oregon to; (b) improve the public's health; and (c) control the cost of health care for the benefit of individuals, families, business and society."

The major problem addressed by the Act is that health care costs have been rising rapidly for a long time.

The plot to the right shows health care expenditures in Oregon from 1991-2025 as share of gross state product. Data after 2010 are Oregon's share of projections from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. All categories of health care expenditures have risen much faster than inflation, wages, or per capita income, with prescription drug and health care administration expenditures rising substantially faster than everything else.



The rise in health care costs has led to hardships and disasters for individuals and families. Estimates are that at least 500 Oregonians die each year due to economic barriers to accessing health care, and that at least 8,000 Oregonians annually suffer from bankruptcy due to medical costs, even though 75% of them have insurance when their medical crisis begins. Both governments and businesses have been adversely affected – with so much of Oregon's economic resources going to health care, too little remains for everything else.

SB631 primarily attacks these problems by simplifying health care financial administration. The proposed publicly financed system will be universal (it will cover all residents), comprehensive (it will cover all medically necessary services), single-payer (only one set of rules for provider billing to follow), all patients will be covered the same (unlike current differences among those covered by Medicaid, Medicare, private insurance, or nothing), and there will be no deductibles and copays.

In Oregon, administrative overhead for private health insurers averages 12%, Medicaid overhead is 6%, and nationally, Medicare overhead is 2%. The efficiency gained by switching to single-payer public financing is sufficient to extend necessary services everybody in Oregon.. An even larger savings is expected from the simplification of provider health care billing. Equity will be greatly improved, since providers will be able to treat all patients the same and know that their services are covered.

Another significant savings that results from a single-payer system is fraud reduction. When studying the economic effects of a single-payer system, Hsiao, Gosline, Knight, and Kappel wrote "We estimated that a single-payer system could save 5 percent of health spending from reduced fraud and abuse, which is consistent with estimates from the Federal Bureau of Investigation and experience in other countries."

SB 631 also includes a directive to investigate alternative methods for reimbursing health care providers, including global budgeting, capitation payments and fee-for-service payments, to determine the best method for reimbursing providers to assure implementation of the policies and principles of the Act. Large provider organizations will likely operate with global budgets, with fee for service likely used for independent providers.

Those who are designing and administering the system envisioned in SB 631 will be covered by the system, so they will have an incentive to make sure it covers people well, and they will also be paying for the system, so they will have an incentive to make sure it is efficient.

SB 631 defines regional planning boards to continually address the conflict between providing sufficient services in rural areas, and controlling system costs. The system is authorized to fund capital improvements in health care delivery as needed, and will replace the Certificates of Need program for covered services. Regional planning boards may also be able to address other geographically related health care issues.

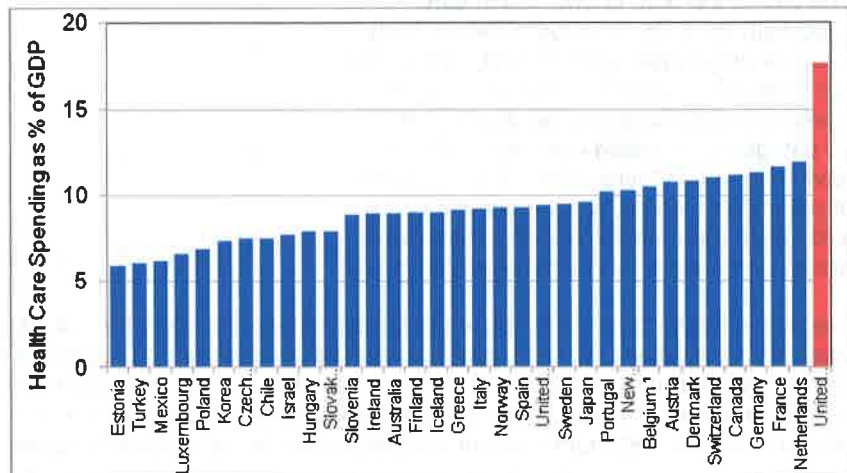
In moving to a universal system, Oregon will join with all other developed countries of the world, and many other states that are pursuing a single-payer system at the state level.

In the 2015 session, the most important step to moving towards controlling health care costs is to fund the study of health care financing that was authorized in the 2013 session – in particular, to pass HB 2828 with sufficient funding to carry out a thorough study. The results will provide essential guidance to improving and completing the plan that is presented in SB 631. Together with engagement from stakeholders and experts, using the best ideas from HB2828 and HB3650, the 2011 bill that established coordinated care organizations and those from successful systems worldwide, the state should be able to craft a system that saves society money, improves health care for Oregonians, and slows the growth in health care expenditures to a sustainable rate.

What can we learn from other countries? All other countries spend less – a lot less, as the chart to the right shows.

Most developed countries have systems that are better liked by participants in the system – a smaller percentage of people say the system needs major changes.

Most developed countries get better results – longer life expectancy, lower rates of child mortality & women's death during child birth, and many other measures.



What are the benefits of the system described in this bill? The biggest cost savings comes from administrative simplification. Other cost savings come from fraud reduction and greater market power when dealing with financially powerful providers. The Oregon Prescription Drug Program would be expanded to all drug purchases in Oregon – partly addressing the portion of health care with the largest cost increases. The increased competitiveness of Oregon businesses is projected to lead to 50,000 new jobs outside of health care, more than offsetting the job loss in health care administration. The system will allow us to choose provider payment systems that can create the best incentives for improving the quality and efficiency of health care, including shifting the focus of care toward health promotion, primary care, and prevention, away from more expensive, less effective later stage treatments.

Of course the greatest benefit of the system will be to eliminate deaths and adverse health results due to economic barriers to health care, as well as eliminating medical cost induced bankruptcies and other severe economic hardships related to medical expenses, and slowing growth of health care expenditures.

How will the system be financed? The health care financing study authorized by HB 3260 in 2013, and extended and funded with the expected passage of HB 2828 in 2015 (our highest priority in the 2015 session), will help to determine that. Financing details will need input from the state and many other stakeholders. We expect that the study will show that there is a better financing scheme than currently exists in Oregon, and that most people will pay less when a universal plan is implemented than they would without such a plan.

Besides passing HB 2828 with sufficient funding, we ask that the state and other stakeholders will continue to help with planning beyond the study. There could be explorations of negotiations for federal waivers, certifications, and permissions, and refinements to the Regional Planning Board concept. Once the study is completed, help will be needed to outline a tax structure to finance a universal system that is both fair and provides sufficient funding. As we move toward the enactment of a single-payer plan, it is worthwhile to explore incremental steps that are in line with what we expect an eventual plan to include – expansion of the prescription drug program to those paying with insurance, broadening Oregon Health Plan eligibility, health care for all children (as in HB 3517), and there are probably other ideas.



SB 631 – the Health Care for All Oregon Act

The purpose of SB 631 is to “(a) ensure access to comprehensive, quality, patient-centered and affordable, publicly funded health care for all individuals living or working in Oregon to; (b) improve the public’s health; and (c) control the cost of health care for the benefit of individuals, families, business and society.”

The major problem addressed by the Act is that health care costs have been rising rapidly for a long time.

- Expenditures are expected to grow 50% more than the Oregon economy from 1991 to 2025
- All categories of health care costs have risen much faster than inflation, wages, or per capita income
- Prescription drug and health care administration costs have risen most rapidly

The rise in health care costs has led to hardships for individuals, families, businesses, and government.

- At least 500 Oregonians die each year due to economic barriers to accessing health care
- At least 8,000 Oregonians annually suffer from bankruptcy due to medical costs, even though 75% of them have insurance when their medical crisis begins
- With so much going to health care, businesses & government have too little for everything else.

SB 631 will attack these problems primarily by simplicity in health care financial administration.

- The publicly financed system will be universal – it will cover all residents
- It will be comprehensive – it will cover all medically necessary services
- It will be single-payer – only one set of rules for provider billing to follow
- All patients will be covered the same – unlike current differences between those covered by Medicaid, Medicare, private insurance, or not covered
- There will be no deductibles and copays

Besides administrative simplicity to control costs & improve equity, SB 631 includes other important concepts.

- Alternative methods for reimbursing health care providers will be investigated and implemented to create the best incentives for improving quality and efficiency of health care, including shifting the focus toward health promotion, primary care, and prevention, and away from more expensive, less effective later stage treatments
- It defines regional planning boards to continually address the conflict between providing sufficient services in rural areas and controlling costs, and to equitably fund capital improvements in health care delivery as needed

The expected benefits of implementing the plan described in SB 631 include:

- Enough savings to extend necessary services to everybody in Oregon
- Fraud reduction due to single-payer – savings estimated to be as large as 5% of total expenditures
- Savings due to greater market power when dealing with financially powerful providers
- Greatly improved equity – no differentiation between the various systems that might cover the patient
- Elimination of deaths and adverse health results due to economic barriers to health care
- Elimination of bankruptcies and other severe economic hardships due to medical costs
- Increased competitiveness of Oregon businesses, leading to 50,000 new jobs outside of health care, more than enough to replace the jobs lost in health care administration
- Overall decrease in Oregon health care expenditures as great as \$2,000 per person, and a reduction in the growth of health care costs to more sustainable levels

The next steps to continue moving towards controlling health care costs and improving equity include:

- Pass HB 2828 (the health care financing study bill) with sufficient funding to carry out a thorough study
- Use the study results to help guide us in designing a fair tax structure to provide sufficient funding
- Get guidance from successful systems worldwide – all other developed countries have systems that cost much less, and nearly all have higher participant satisfaction get better health results
- Solicit stakeholder input and use in state expertise to craft a bill that improves SB 631
- Consider incremental improvements that are in line with what we expect an eventual plan to include – possibilities include expansion of the prescription drug program to those paying with insurance, and broadening Oregon Health Plan eligibility, as in Cover All Kids (HB 3517)



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April 20, 2015

Dear Jackson, Josephine and Klamath County Legislators,

We, the undersigned Southern Oregon school district superintendents have been discussing the \$7.255 billion budget that is currently awaiting the Governor's signature and want to share our thoughts with you. Let us begin by expressing our appreciation for your support of K-12 education and your willingness to meet with us on a regular basis to both listen to our concerns and seek our advice. We understand the difficult choices you must make to try and support the needs across the state. With that in mind, we do have concerns regarding this budget, based on optimistic projections, and its impact on the schools of Southern Oregon. We encourage you to continue to look for ways to increase the amount allocated to K-12 in year two of the biennium. As such, here are some of the impacts this budget holds for different districts in our region:

- Full-day kindergarten will require taking resources from other programs. The proposed budget won't cover the amount needed to fund full-day kindergarten in most of our districts. Many will be forced to make tough decisions such as tapping into reserve accounts, not moving to full-day kindergarten and/or borrowing funds to afford the start-up costs.
- The 50-50 split will need to be utilized to build budgets rather than the 49-51 split creating deep budget cuts during the second year of the biennium. While we appreciate the promise that 40% of any May projection increase will be added to that \$7.255 number, we also hear that the kicker will likely kick and negate any benefit derived from that May projection.
- Class sizes will remain the same as they are today for 2015-16 and most likely be increased for 2016-17, negating any movement made by districts during the current biennium.
- Textbook purchases will need to be delayed.
- There will be no restoration of programs.
- Making forward progress on unfunded initiatives/mandates will be difficult.
- Increasing graduation rates, increasing academic performance and having all students reading on grade-level by third grade – all of these are monumental tasks. Accomplishing them without adequate funding support will be extremely challenging and in some cases simply not possible.
- Deferred maintenance projects will once again remain on hold for two more years.
- Reserve funds, where they still exist, will be used to fund programs and supplement budgets.
- Ending Fund Balances will remain dangerously low and in many cases will slip further.
- Staff morale is low. Years of sacrificed compensation, compounded with higher class loads and increasing responsibilities have taken a toll.


We want to make sure that above all, you remember that we have experienced significant cuts over the last six years and this budget does not restore those cuts or support progress in the unfunded initiatives/mandates. Instead it leaves many of us in a holding pattern for the first year and will result in backward movement in year two. Progress has been made despite these cuts and this is a credit to the hard-working dedication of our staff members. What we are seeing, however, is exhaustion. Many


talented individuals are leaving the profession and the cuts over the last six years have made it hard to attract people to education. We are disappointed that an improving Oregon economy has not yielded a budget that would lead to restoration and improved services for our children, but one that will once again have each of us considering cost cutting measures or keeping the status quo.

We look forward to working with you to increase the funding for K-12 education in Oregon.

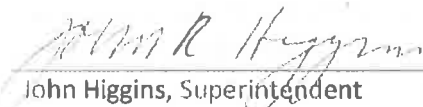
Respectfully,



Jay Hummel, Superintendent
Ashland School District



David Courtney, Superintendent
Butte Falls School District



Samantha Steele, Superintendent
Central Point School District


Cynda Rickert, Superintendent
Eagle Point School District

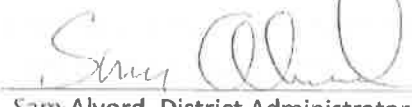

John Higgins, Superintendent
Grants Pass School District



Paul Hillyer, Superintendent
Klamath Falls City Schools

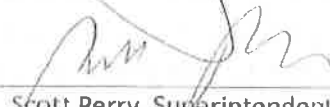

Greg Thede, Superintendent
Klamath County School District


Brian Shumate, Superintendent
Medford School District


Teresa Sayre, Superintendent
Phoenix-Talent School District


Sam Alvord, District Administrator
Pinehurst School District


Paul Young, Superintendent
Rogue River School District


Scott Perry, Superintendent
Southern Oregon ESD


David Holmes, Superintendent
Three Rivers School District

June 12, 2011

From: Jean Mount, Board Director Rogue Advocates

Lower Applegate CAC member

To: Josephine County Board of County Commissioners

Subject: Ordinance 2011-003- Suction Dredge Mining Ordinance

I respectfully ask the following comments be given consideration regarding Ordinance 2011-003. The first Reading for the Ordinance was on May 11, 2011.

Purpose of the Ordinance: The purpose is stated is "to create and implement rules and regulations permitting recreational dredge mining in streams running through or over real property belonging to Josephine County."

The purpose is in conflict with the state Department of Lands who has authority to issue Permits. No information is given on coordination or consultation with the state agency.

The stated intent is actually a land use ordinance as the county is stating that a particular group of citizens "suction dredge miners" can have access to the county lands and be issued a permit for use of 300 feet along the banks & in all the streams of the county.

This Ordinance presents a direct conflict with other citizens who use the county owned land & streams to fish, swim, raft, boat and recreate, etc. One group of citizens should not be given receive permitting and months of use for a particular land area- 300 feet, as the county lands are for **all** citizens.

Ordinance 2011-003 is in conflict with other county Ordinances—specifically, the county Riparian Ordinance of 2006 which requires minimum stream setbacks of 25 feet and/or consultation with Oregon Dept of Fish & Wildlife. It conflicts also with the county Parks Ordinance of day use and accessibility for all citizens.

Suction dredge mining impacts streams, fish and fish habitat. The equipment has advanced and come a long way from the 19th century gold miners, and today's large vacuums create large holes in stream bottoms. Dredge miners dump all the material they remove from a river bottom downstream, changing the entire structure and hydraulics of the stream. Miners camped out for months on the riverbanks impact our public lands now, and this will only increase with this Ordinance. It's an invitation for mine groups such as The 49'ers, to send out the word to all states. Yes, I think the miners will flood; already the number of dredge miners

has doubled in the past couple years. The impacts will be costly and harmful. California has been aware of the dredge mining impacts—increased costs and harmful impacts to salmon. Since 2009 California has had a moratorium in place, and it will likely be extended.

This Ordinance does not have any plan or method to obtain information on the harmful impacts of dredge mining on water quality or the river and stream banks. It does not address the potential economic loss to the county and does not add any staff to provide the needed enforcement.

Unfortunately, this Ordinance places dredge miners in a privileged position. If this Ordinance is passed it would allow one groups of citizens to obtain permits and use county lands & impact public streams and rivers at the expense of other citizens.

This Ordinance is in conflict with Department of State Land regulations and other county Ordinances. The language of the proposed Ordinance relates more to land use regulations, and thus, Land Use regulations and codes would apply.

I request you do not pass Ordinance 2011-003-, listed as a Dredge Mining Ordinance. The legality of some sections of the Ordinance is in question and conflict with other county regulations. The Ordinance pits one group of citizens against another and does not appear to be enforceable.

Sincerely,

Jean Mount

7/20/11 withdrawn
& not
passed

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS FOR JOSEPHINE COUNTY
ORDINANCE NO. 2011-003

**AN ORDINANCE IMPLEMENTING AND REVISING RULES AND
REGULATIONS FOR MINING ON JOSEPHINE COUNTY OWNED LANDS
AND REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 88-3**

The Board of County Commissioners of Josephine County ordains as follows:

SECTION 1.00 TITLE

This Ordinance shall be known as the Josephine County Owned Lands Mining Ordinance.

SECTION 2.00 PURPOSE AND INTENT

The purpose of this ordinance is to create and implement rules and regulations permitting recreational dredge mining in streams running through or over the real property in Josephine County owned by Josephine County, and by such rules and regulations to protect the real property owned by Josephine County from any damage that such mining might inflict and to protect the natural resources of Josephine County owned lands and the health and safety of the citizens of Josephine County. Josephine County may, upon proper application, issue permits for recreational dredge mining on lands owned by Josephine County in accordance with all state and federal regulations. In no event shall any permit be issued to allow any type of dredge operation on land designated or operated as a county park, unless otherwise authorized by the Josephine County Board of Commissioners.

It is not the intent of this Ordinance to regulate mining on any other public lands or on any privately held lands within Josephine County.

SECTION 3.00 DEFINITIONS

3.01 The following are definitions for the purposes of this Ordinance and for the purpose of any agreement entered into pursuant hereto and for any actions taken as authorized pursuant to this ordinance and otherwise:

- A. "Josephine County stream" means any watercourse running through or over lands owned by Josephine County.
- B. "Recreational Dredge Mining" means the operation at a single location on Josephine County owned land of a single small-scale motorized dredge rated at sixteen (16) horsepower or less, with a suction hose diameter of four inches or less, removing or processing twenty-five (25) cubic yards of materials or less per year.
- C. "Permit for Recreational Dredge Mining" means a written authorization from the Josephine County Board of Commissioners issued to a single individual to engage in recreational dredge mining at one location on one stream located on Josephine County owned land. Such permits are not transferable and may be revoked by the Board of Commissioners at any time, with or without cause. The permit will allow one user to operate one small-scale motorized dredge at one location on Josephine County owned land, on condition that the user does not

remove or process more than twenty-five (25) cubic yards of material in one year; that the user does not damage or disturb the natural course of the stream; that the user does not impede or interfere with any other lawful use of the stream or its banks; that the discharge of material from the dredge into the stream contains no pollutants; and that the user does not place or distribute the discharged materials so as to impede or obstruct the natural flow of the stream, or to change its course.

- D. "Operator" means an individual who has been granted a permit for recreational dredge mining on a stream located on Josephine County owned land.
- E. "Commercial mining" means any mining or dredging operation other than recreational dredge mining as defined herein.
- F. "Enforcement officer" means any law enforcement officer of the State of Oregon, Josephine County, or any other political subdivision of the State of Oregon.
- G. "Mining location" or "location" means the specific section or part of the stream located on Josephine County owned land, subject to the individual permit for operation of recreational dredge mining.

SECTION 4.00 **AUTHORITY**

- 4.01 The Board of County Commissioners of Josephine County recognizes, declares and establishes the authority of the Board of Commissioners to regulate the use of Josephine County owned streams and lands, in order to promote recreational use, protect the natural resources of the County, and protect the health and safety of the citizens of the County, in accordance with all state and federal laws and regulations.

SECTION 5.00 **PERMIT REQUIRED**

- 5.01 No person may use any mining equipment, including but not limited to sluice boxes, shaker boxes, or motorized dredges, on or in any stream on Josephine County owned land, unless the person has in the person's possession a valid permit from Josephine County, issued under authority of this Ordinance. No permit is required for operation of a simple non-motorized hand pan if the panning device can be held and handled by one person.
- 5.02 Only recreational dredge mining is permitted on Josephine County owned land. Commercial mining is prohibited unless otherwise permitted by the Josephine County Board of Commissioners. Recreational dredge mining is permitted on Josephine County owned land only under authority of a valid permit issued by Josephine County.
- 5.03 Only individual persons may apply for and receive a recreational dredge mining permit. Corporations, clubs, partnerships, limited liability companies or other types of entities are not allowed to apply for or receive a permit to operate any type of dredge on Josephine County owned land.

SECTION 6.00 **COMPLIANCE WITH LAW AND RULES**

- 6.01 All operators are required to comply with all state and federal statutes and administrative

rules, as well as complying with Josephine County ordinances and rules. It is the obligation of the individual operator to determine which statutes and rules apply to the operator's actions and location, and to comply with all applicable laws and rules at all times.

- 6.02 Any person who fails or refuses to comply with applicable statutes or rules may be ordered by County employees or law enforcement officers to cease operation of the dredge immediately, and to vacate the location immediately. Josephine County may immediately terminate the permit of any person who violates any state, federal or local law, rule or regulation. Any person who refuses to vacate the location immediately upon being ordered to do so by County employees or by law enforcement officers is subject to arrest for criminal trespass.
- 6.03 In addition to all other penalties, any operator who is found to be in violation of any federal, state or local law, rule or regulation may be required to pay a penalty of \$100.00 per day for each day the violation continues after the operator is told to cease the violation, either by County employees or by law enforcement officers.
- 6.04 In addition to all other penalties, any operator who has been required to pay a penalty, been arrested, been issued a citation in lieu of arrest, or been forced to vacate a location may be permanently barred from applying for any permit to operate a mining dredge on any Josephine County stream.
- 6.05 Operators are required at all times to comply with all federal, state and local law and rules relating to all other activities conducted on public lands, including the use of vehicles, building fires, camping, possession and use of weapons, etc. Any violation of any such law or rule may result in the operator being ordered to cease operation and vacate the location.

SECTION 7.00 **SCOPE OF PERMIT**

- 7.01 A permit for recreational dredge mining does not create an easement or a profit a prendre. The issuance or possession of the permit does not create in the operator any interest in or right to the land, the stream or any approaches thereto. The permit does not create a mining claim. The permit is a mere license and it is revocable at any time by the issuing authority, with or without cause.
- 7.02 A permit for recreational dredge mining is not transferable; it may be used only by the person to whom it is issued and does not pass in any circumstance to any heirs, successors or assigns. Any person using or purporting to use a permit not issued to that person is a trespasser.
- 7.03 A permit for recreational dredge mining may be issued only to an individual person; no corporation, club, partnership, limited liability company or any other entity may apply for or receive a permit.
- 7.04 Permits are issued only for the purpose of recreational activity. Commercial mining is not permitted on any stream on any Josephine County owned land.
- 7.05 No one may use explosives of any type on, around or in any stream on any Josephine County owned land. Use of any explosive, or use of any machinery other than a small-

scale dredge as described herein shall result in the immediate termination of the operation and eviction of the operator from the location.

- 7.06 All operators are required to maintain the mining location and surrounding areas in a clean and natural state. Operators must pack out all waste matter, and leave the area in the same state in which it existed when the operator first entered on the location. Josephine County may seek civil damages for any expenses involved in cleaning up a location if the operator does not leave it in a proper state.
- 7.07 Dredge mining activity is permitted only during daylight hours. Operators may begin operations by placing the dredge in the stream or by starting the dredge motor no earlier than thirty minutes after sunrise. Operators must cease operations by stopping the dredge motor and ceasing all work no later than thirty minutes before sunset. The only work permitted later than thirty minutes before sunset is the removal of the dredge from the stream. If the operator chooses to leave the dredge in the stream overnight, it must be properly secured, and the operator assumes all risk by deciding to leave the dredge in the stream. The operator who makes that choice is liable for any and all types of damages that may be incurred by leaving the dredge in the stream, including liability to third parties who may be injured or whose property may be damaged thereby. The recreational dredge mining permit is only for the purpose of operating a dredge as defined herein; the permit does not confer on the holder of the permit any right to camp, park vehicles or machines, or otherwise use or occupy any county lands or facilities. Camping is not permitted at or on dredge mining locations.
- 7.08 The operation of the dredge must not create visible turbidity more than 300 feet downstream from the discharge point. Dredges must never be operated in tandem; each dredge must at all times be at least 200 feet from any other dredge.
- 7.09 Dredge operators must not process more than 25 cubic yards of material per year. Operators must not in any way alter, damage or disturb the natural course of the stream, and must not in any way impede or interfere with any other lawful use of the stream or its banks.
- 7.10 Operators are prohibited from processing materials from outside the stream on Josephine County owned lands. Dredge mining is permitted only in the stream itself; removing or processing material from the banks of streams is expressly prohibited. No one may remove any material from stream banks above the water line, no matter how the material is removed.
- 7.11 Operators must not discharge or otherwise place into the stream or on its banks any pollutants. Operators must be certain that the discharge from the dredge does not contain any type of pollutant. For the purposes of this section, "pollutant" means any harmful or offensive substance, including any substance that alters the physical, chemical or biological properties of any stream. The term also includes any substance, whether liquid, gaseous, solid, radioactive or other substances that change the temperature, taste, color, turbidity, silt or odor of the water of any stream, and any substance that may, by itself or in combination with any other substance, create a public nuisance, or which may render such water harmful, detrimental or injurious to public health, safety or welfare, or to livestock, wildlife, fish or other aquatic life or the habitat thereof. Naturally created silt, occurring naturally in the specific location, is not a pollutant. The discharge of silt, natural or otherwise, in such a way as to alter the

course, shape, or characteristics of a stream, its bed or banks, is prohibited.

- 7.12 Operators must make certain that they prevent fuel, oil, or other petroleum products from entering any stream or from being deposited on the banks of any stream. Any operator whose equipment leaks, spills or otherwise places in a stream or on the banks of a stream any petroleum product shall forfeit the permit and be immediately evicted from the location.
- 7.13 Operators must make certain that the dredge does not discharge materials in such a way that the discharged materials impede or obstruct the natural flow of the stream, or change the course of the stream.
- 7.14 A permit shall be valid for a period not to exceed eight (8) months from the date it is issued. The permit allows one person to operate one small scale suction dredge on a designated part of a designated stream. When the operator ceases operations, the operator must notify Josephine County Forestry officials of that fact, and must surrender the permit to Forestry officials. No one who has failed to comply with any provision of this Ordinance shall be eligible to apply for a permit to operate a dredge on Josephine County owned lands.
- 7.15 Each permit shall allow the individual operator to operate a dredge within a designated 300 foot segment of a designated stream on Josephine County owned lands. The permit applies only to that segment of that stream, and no other. Each applicant must designate on the application which segment of which stream on Josephine County owned lands the operator wishes to be subject to the permit. Any person operating a dredge outside the area for which that person has a permit is a trespasser. Nothing in this paragraph limits the application of the distance requirements in paragraph 7.08.
- 7.16 No permit shall be issued to any person who does not present proof with the application for a recreational dredge mining permit that the person has already obtained all applicable state and federal permits for the operation of a dredge. No promise to obtain the permits in the future is allowed; the applicant for a Josephine County permit must have in the person's possession all applicable permits from state and federal authorities at the time the person files an application for a Josephine County permit.

SECTION 8.00 **FEES**

- 8.01 Every person applying for a permit for recreational dredge mining on Josephine County owned land shall pay an application fee of \$35.00 at the time of filing the application with the Board of Commissioners.
- 8.02 If the Board of Commissioners grants the application and issues a permit the operator shall pay a permit fee of \$500.00 before receiving the permit. In addition, before receiving the permit, the operator shall pay a bond or security deposit, in cash, of \$250.00, to be held by Josephine County Forestry until such time as the operator has ceased operations, surrendered the permit, and Josephine County Forestry employees have inspected the site and determined that no cleanup is required. If Forestry employees determine that the site must be cleaned up, the \$250.00 deposit shall be forfeited and applied to the cost of cleanup. Whenever an operator leaves a site in need of cleanup, the operator shall be assessed a penalty in an amount three times the actual cost of the cleanup, as computed by Josephine County Forestry officials. If the cost of

the cleanup exceeds the deposit, the operator shall pay the balance of the cost of cleanup to Josephine County Forestry. No person owing any portion of the cost of cleaning up a dredging site is eligible for a permit to operate a dredge on Josephine County owned land.

- 8.03 If an operator is found in violation of any federal, state or local law or rule, the County may terminate the permit, evict the operator from the location, and assess a penalty of \$100.00 for each day the violation continues and for each day the operator remains on the location after being ordered to vacate. This penalty is in addition to any other penalties or remedies available under federal, state or local law. Josephine County reserves the right to seek civil damages by recourse to the courts of the State of Oregon and the United States, including the Small Claims Division where applicable.

SECTION 9.00 **ENFORCEMENT AND PENALTIES**

- 9.01 Josephine County Forestry employees are authorized to enforce the rules set forth in this ordinance. Forestry employees and law enforcement officers are authorized to order the immediate departure from the location of any person who violates any of the rules set forth in this ordinance, or who violates any statute of the State of Oregon or the United States, or any administrative rule of the State or the United States. If any person, having been ordered to vacate the location, refuses to leave, the person shall be subject to arrest for criminal trespass in addition to any other offenses the person may have committed.
- 9.02 In addition to any other remedies, a person who damages county property or removes county property unlawfully, including but not limited to timber, waterways or other property, shall be liable to the county for three times the amount of the damage or value of the property removed or damaged.
- 9.03 In addition to any other remedies, a person who has been ordered to vacate a location and has refused to do so may, at the discretion of Forestry employees, be permanently barred from applying for or receiving a Josephine County recreational dredge mining permit.

SECTION 10.00 **SEVERABILITY**

- 10.01 In the event that any part of this Ordinance shall be held by a court to be invalid or unenforceable, the remaining sections shall be unaffected and shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 11.00 **REPEAL**

Ordinance No. 88-3 is hereby repealed.

SECTION 12.00 **EFFECTIVE DATE**

First reading by the Board of County Commissioners this _____ day of _____, 2011.

Second reading and adoption by the Board of County Commissioners at least thirteen (13) days

Honorable Members of the Joint Ways & Means Committee,

Thank you for taking the time to visit Southern Oregon and listen to our comments and concerns.

Due to the recession and declining enrollment, the Three Rivers School District has had severe reductions over the past 5 years; 35 calendar days were cut, class sizes have increased, and student programs were eliminated. Despite the millions of dollars in reductions our students continue to excel. The Three Rivers School District had five (5) schools designated as Level 5 schools by the State of Oregon, and three (3) schools were listed as Model Schools. These accomplishments are due to the amazing teaching and support staff that make up our district... and our teachers have done this with only one (1) cost of living raise in the past 5 years.

Fortunately, 2015-16 should allow for a full calendar year with no reductions in the work force. In addition, the district will move ahead with full time Kindergarten, but furnishing those classrooms is going to be tough. However, the current \$7.235 budget will ultimately result in more cuts in the future. Very simply, the funding is not sufficient for K-12 education and the proposition that biennium funding be split 50/50 is imprudent. This budget only *looks* like more money for the 2015-16 school year, for individuals who understand school funding...we know better.

PLEASE, show your support for education in Oregon and work towards a \$7.5 billion funding level for education, incorporating a responsible 49/51 split.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,




Lisa Cross
Accounting Manager
Three Rivers School District
8550 New Hope Road
Grants Pass, OR 97527
(541) 862-3111 ext: 5260



HB 2721: FARM TO SCHOOL AND SCHOOL GARDENS

Healthy food for healthy learning... and a healthy economy



Connecting Classrooms, Crops and Cafeterias

Farm to School and School Garden programs work to:

- Create market opportunities for Oregon's farmers, fishers, ranchers and food processors
- Improve youth and adults' knowledge of & attitudes toward agriculture, food and nutrition
- Increase children's consumption of fruits & vegetables
- Improve children's life-long healthy eating habits
- Bridge urban-rural divides, and bring Oregon's coastline inland
- Increase community food security by strengthening local food systems

Oregon's Farm to School Program is Working

- Legislature created positions in the Departments of Agriculture and Education in 2007 and 2008 to support farm to school and school garden programs
- Legislature created a grant program in 2011 and expanded it in 2013, to help schools to purchase foods that are produced or processed in Oregon, and to provide "agriculture, food and garden-based education"
- Funds are currently awarded by competitive grants
- Most participating districts want to continue, and new ones want to join
- Farmers and processors like selling to schools but need more stability and a stronger market

Proposed Improvements Based on Lessons Learned

To better serve producers and schools

- Give all districts a fair share of the food funds, based on school lunches served. Districts will still be required to track and report on local purchases
- Allow districts to use the funds for local foods for any school meal programs, not just lunch
- Still award the funds for "agriculture, food and garden-based education" by competitive grants, but let non-profit organizations and commodity commissions also apply
- Expand total funding to \$5.6M to benefit all districts, and to let farmers and processor count on consistent buyers

This investment will directly benefit Oregon farmers and producers, stimulating rural economies, promoting healthy eating, and stemming long-term health care costs.

HB 2721: FARM TO SCHOOL AND SCHOOL GARDENS

Healthy food for healthy learning... and a healthy economy

Districts And Communities All Over Oregon are Benefitting

Twenty-six school districts have received grants so far. Highlights include:

Bend: Piloted "Boat to School" program with fish and shrimp from the Oregon coast, and brought three fishing representatives (Oregon Trawl Commission and Bornstein Seafood) inland for "Boat To School" day. Also worked with the FFA to raise, slaughter, and serve local pork: students learned the business, agricultural, and culinary side of their project from "pork to fork" and the district is able to serve local food.

Clatskanie: Using a Youth Advocates 4 Health program where teens are trained on gardening, nutrition, and food safety. Teens serve as role models and health advocates in their school and broader community.

Gladstone: Purchased primarily locally-processed breads and cut vegetables. Developed a relationship with a local farm, Livesay Farm, from which the school bought some food and where students went to plant and harvest crops in the fall and in the spring.

Molalla: High School "Culture Club" has focused on creating and cultivating a new giant courtyard garden, which has changed the culture on campus for the better, has transformed teen's lives, and even decreased vandalism and youth problems in the community.

Roseburg: Purchased over \$3,000 in local berries and also over \$3,000 in (combined) apples and pears, plus Oregon-made breads, and lightly processed corn, beans, and other vegetables. Built a new learning garden and garden program: bought 10 yards of soil, worm bins, wheelbarrows, shovels, irrigation, teaching kits and more.

Sisters: "Feature days" in the cafeterias have highlighted local products, including: Boat to School Day featuring Oregon tuna, Oregon Burger Day featuring Oregon beef, Tillamook cheese, and Franz buns, Local Bagel Day featuring Oregon bagels, and Local Potato day featuring a potato bar.

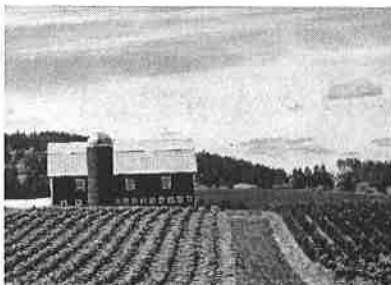
Other participating districts in the 2013 Pilot and/or 2013-15 Grant:

Beaverton, Bethel, Centennial, Corvallis, Eugene 4J, Gladstone, Hillsboro, Joseph, Lebanon, McMinnville, North Powder, Oakridge, Ontario, Portland, Port Orford, Rainier, Salem-Keizer, Sherman, South Lane, Springfield, Yamhill-Carlton

For more information:

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Upstream Public Health
kassandra@upstreampublichealth.org
503.238.1799



Testimony - For Joint Ways & Means
committee

Date: Sat., April 25

Subject: Suction Dredge Mining
From: Jean Mount - Grants Pass

member Rogue Riverkeeper

Board member Lower Applegate

Citizen Advisory Committee

member Rogue Advocates &
1,000 Friends

I support a continued moratorium
on placer mining.

I am in support of interim
work group & SB 838.

I find SB 830 A measure
a good beginning, but additional
consideration & restrictions
needed

- suction dredge mining should
not be allowed in rivers &
habitat with threatened
fish - salmon, trout, sensitive
mollusks.

- riparian areas need more
protection

- permitting fees need to
be high enough to administer

and enforce program.

Salmon spawning gravels
need protection, water quality
needs protection from elevated
mercury contamination.
Streambanks need protection.

I have been involved with issue
of Suction Dredge Mining on
County level (Josephine) since
2011.

See previous Testimony
related to proposed County
Ordinance. (Measure was
withdrawn, but efforts
continue at county level
for expanding mining -
which would have harmful
impacts to our rivers, streams
& land.

Thank-you
Jean Moin

Stronger Together



LOCAL 503

Carol Conlin

Homecare Union, Local 99

Director HC Council

PSW Leader

carol.conlon@charter.net

SEIU Local 503, OPEU

Cobblestone Village Suite 7

1257 North Riverside

Medford OR 97501

Cell: (541) 218-8063

Fax: (541) 474-1152

www.seiu503.org



Co Chairs

my name is Carol Conlin, and I am
a Personal Support Worker in Homecare,
and SEIU member.

I am a family care giver, which means
my son can have care in the least
restrictive environment. This increases his
quality of life, and saves the state
money.

Providing care in the community, rather
than institutions, reduces unnecessary
hospitalizations, and increases the
richness of our community as a whole.

The work we do is vital to the
increasing demand of long-term care.
Therefore recruiting and retaining a
qualified and adequate work force is
critical for the ongoing care of our
most vulnerable.

Less people will be attracted to this growing
field, without recognizing that care providers
deserve a living wage. Please fund home
care to the Fair Labor Standards Act. Thank you

WOMEN'S CRISIS SUPPORT RISE TO END VIOLENCE

STAND • SPEAK • ACT

We all play a role

Domestic violence and
sexual assault are preventable



By Ray Dinkins
Prevention Program Coordinator
Women's Crisis Support Team

Intimate partner violence, such as domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and human trafficking, are

not inevitable. They are not woven into the fabric of our community nor endemic to the human condition. In fact, the opposite is true. Domestic violence and sexual assault are completely preventable.

Each of us regularly make choices that either support or challenge a culture of violence. We are actors even when we believe we are doing nothing. The reality that violence is preventable and that we all have a role to play is stirring news that can shape our actions. It can serve as a goal that drives us in creating change. Our hope, and our inspiration, is the vision of a community where everyone assumes a role in preventing violence.

By starting here, we promote a framework for what is possible for our community. The cornerstone to creating a safer, healthier community for all is for everyone to accept the responsibility to STAND, SPEAK and ACT in ways that prevent violence.

A simple solution to a complex problem...

Our community can undermine the cultural norms that support violence by believing intimate partner violence

is preventable and that we all play a role.

First, we must STAND with survivors, listen to their stories, offer our support, and be willing to learn from their circumstances.

Next, as individuals and as a community, we must SPEAK in ways that promote justice and equality while interrupting sexist, biased language that normalizes violence and creates conditions that make it acceptable.

Finally, we must ACT to create safe, healthy, educated communities. This necessitates assessing our community needs, including the needs of our youth, in order to provide relevant prevention programs and activities. It also requires support for the development, implementation, and evaluation of comprehensive prevention strategies that move beyond simple awareness to challenge and change the conditions that tolerate violence.

Domestic and sexual violence are preventable and we all play a role. If we all STAND, SPEAK and ACT to end intimate partner violence in Josephine County, we can realize the goal of a safe, healthy community for all citizens.

Grants Pass High School partners with WCST

sonal interactions and attachments. All of this is, in addition to issues we all dealt with as teens, such as drugs and alcohol, relationships with friends and family, academics, sports, clubs, activities, and planning for life after high school graduation.

In order to help kids steer through these treacherous waters, Grants Pass

many of these crises.

In my role as GPHS Assistant Principal in charge of discipline, there have been numerous situations where I have witnessed Women's Crisis Support Team groups help students to prevent crisis. Because of the success in building safer, healthier relationships, the young men's and women's groups

STAND

Support survivors

- "I believe"
- "You are"
- "As you're"

Hold abusers accountable

Become educated

- Participate in cycle of violence
- Become family

Recognize domestic health problem

SPEAK

Always speak in

Interrupt sexist

Use language that

Engage friends

Promote awareness

social settings.

Invite guest speaker

about violence

ACT

Advocate for change

Participate in community

Volunteer with

advocacy agencies

Move beyond domestic and sexual

Be prepared to help someone else.

- If you see it is a crime
- Be a great so that you

Petition public

intervention and



By Keith Jaroslow
Assistant Principal
Grants Pass High School

Being a kid today is not as easy as it has been in the past.

Today, students are expected to navigate the complex world of social media, cyber-bullying, and texting in a more mobile society with fewer per-

increase student safety, health and well-being. And, as such, we are always looking for partners within the community that can assist us in this endeavor.

Grants Pass School District #7 has worked with the Women's Crisis Support Team since 2007. WCST works in cooperation with the GPHS Counseling Department to provide mentorship, group discussions, and crisis advocacy in an effort to prevent violence and build community.

The WCST helps GPHS administration work with students dealing with crisis situations that result from a lack of social problem-solving skills or are based on circumstances beyond the student's control.

Prevention works...

What has been even more valuable is the proactive work that the WCST does with students to help prevent

have created a real buzz among student, staff, and parents.

Membership in WCST groups is strictly voluntary and the work accomplished in these groups can benefit any student. Group norms of respect and tolerance are established from the beginning. Confidentiality of the group is a valued asset among students. This allows group members to speak freely and participate without fear of ridicule or public embarrassment. Students are also encouraged to speak openly and honestly with each other about specific situations or issues in an atmosphere of trust and understanding.

In the words of Mr. Thompson, GPHS Principal, "WCST empowers kids and helps them develop leadership skills. They are a fantastic partner in the work we do with our kids at Grants Pass High School."



This is a photo of some of the members of the WCST's **YOUTH ACTION TEAM**. The group is comprised of recent high school graduates, current District 7 students, alternative education program students, and even one National Guard member.

The Youth Action Team's mission statement:

We are a group of high school students who came together to reduce violence and build community. We work to raise awareness, encourage others, and set an example for a violence-free community.

intervention, prevention. Financially support Women's Crisis Support

Career
Clo

Shoes,
Purses,
Outerwear &
Formalwear

Clothing Fair Sale
Saturday,
March 28
8am-3pm

WCST
Women's Crisis Support
Evergreen Federal and

Office (541) 476-3877 • 24/7 Crisis Line
wcstjoco.org