

American Fisheries Society Oregon Chapter

OR Chapter AFS: PO Box 8062 Portland, OR 97207-8062

www.orafs.org



April 24, 2015

Dear Honorable Legislator,

The Oregon Chapter of the American Fisheries Society (ORAFS) is comprised of over 500 fisheries and aquatic science professionals from federal, state, and tribal agencies, colleges and universities, diverse private employers, college students, and retirees. The Chapter was established in 1964 as part of the American Fisheries Society. Our mission is to improve the conservation and sustainability of Oregon fishery resources and their aquatic ecosystems for long-term public benefit by advancing science, education and public discourse concerning fisheries and aquatic science and by promoting the development of fisheries professionals.

The ODFW budget has long been supported primarily by hunting and fishing license fees. To that end, a modest increase in fees coupled with general fund dollars, and agency streamlining will help to ensure that the services and opportunities provided to the citizens of Oregon continues into the future. The agency's responsibility for fish and wildlife management continues to increase, not only for species that are hunted, trapped or fished for, but for the whole spectrum of Oregon species. Oregon's rich biodiversity needs to be managed to preserve and maintain natural systems that benefit all Oregonians. Additionally, the hunting and fishing resources that ODFW manages results in several billions of dollars of recreation and tourism revenue that benefits Oregon's economy.

Many employees and programs at ODFW that potentially would be cut with budget cutbacks help to plan, implement, and coordinate restoration projects, conservation, and research that are congruent with our organization's mission. Many of our ORAFS members that work for ODFW have led the charge on beneficial conservation related work such as research and monitoring that led to Oregon's first Endangered Species Act delisting of Oregon Chub on 2/17/15, the first fish species ever to be delisted in the country. Current work towards the review of the nationally renowned Oregon Conservation Strategy and programs such as the Western Oregon Stream Restoration Program are essential to the long-term persistence of Oregon's natural resources.

We strongly support ODFW's budget being fully funded and general funds being appropriated per SB 5511 by the legislature as needed to supplement license revenue.

We hope that the information provided by the ORAFS will help to inform your decisions as you consider ODFW budget-related legislation this session. Thank you for the opportunity to provide this information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "M. Gauvin".

Michael Gauvin- President, American Fisheries Society- Oregon Chapter

503-947-6214, president@orafs.org

Ways & Means Hearing, April 23, 2015

@ The Springfield Library

Ladies and Gentlemen, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to speak to you this evening.

I would like to speak to the opportunity that the legislature has this session to help provided needed funding for Transportation Infrastructure. An increase in the gas tax is way overdue. Fuel efficiencies have caused a decline in the resources that we have used for maintaining and improving or Transportation Infrastructure. With fuel prices at current level allows an opportunity to make the needed adjustment. Current backlogs in needed Infrastructure Investments in Oregon are at a very scary level.

In 2007 Eugene had a Transportation Infrastructure backlog of about \$165M with a projected backlog of about \$285M in 2016. The Citizens of Eugene pasted a 5 yr. bond measure of \$35M in 2008. In 2012 they pasted an additional 5 yr. bond measure for \$45. After 6 years and spending between \$44 & \$45M on Transportation Infrastructure improvements the Cities current backlog is less than \$90M. I think the folks in Eugene made a very good decision to invest in their Transportation Infrastructure.

I feel certain that the State of Oregon can realize the same positive returns by providing needed resources for Transportation Infrastructure in Oregon.

Thank you, Gary Wildish,
 2424 Quince Street,
 Eugene, OR. 97404

From: [Jim Williams](#)
To: [waysandmeans budget](#)
Subject: Fwd: Funding ODF&W 2015-16
Date: Thursday, April 23, 2015 11:06:16 PM

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Jim Williams <jwilliam01@comcast.net>

From: Jim Williams <jwilliam01@comcast.net>
Date: April 23, 2015 at 10:53:04 PM PDT
To: "waysandmeans@state.or.us"
<waysandmeans@state.or.us>
Subject: Funding ODF&W 2015-16

Dear Committee Members:

My name is Jim Williams. I live at 428 Mansfield Street in Springfield, Oregon. I am also the President of the McKenzie Flyfishers, a conservation based flyfishing organization founded over 50 years ago.

I came to the meeting held at the Springfield council chambers tonight to speak on behalf of providing adequate funding of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. Our organization recognizes the challenges your committee faces in funding the many worthy organizations in Oregon. We are worried, however, that some decisions your committee might make could cause irreparable harm to the fishery resources in Oregon.

The quality of our environment is predicated on the quality of the air we breathe, the quality of the rivers we get our drinking water AND in how healthy the fish are who live in them. In many ways the stewards of the fishery are the professional fishery biologists at ODF&W.

We ask your committee support adequate funding for the work of ODF&W. We particularly want to see the fishery biologists positions be financially supported. These men and women bring SCIENCE and commonsense to any discussion in how our fishery resources should be managed.

Our organization supports a reasonable increase in license fees as long as the funds ARE used to stabilize the budget for

the ODF&W.

Sincerely,

Jim Williams

jwilliam01@comcast.net

"The great philosophical perspective I get from living on the river -- I never lose sight of the fact that I am downstream from the wilderness, which is like being downstream from God's place. And since I know there are others downstream from me, I am constantly aware of my place in things."

Mason Williams

Sent from my iPhone

SUPPORT FOR MODEST INCREASES IN ODFW LICENSE FEES AND MORE SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES IN GENERAL FUNDS

When I bought my first Oregon fishing license in 1961, using license fees to fund ODFW made sense. Most Oregonians bought hunting and fishing licenses, and ODFW had a narrow mission to support those recreationalists.

Today the population of Oregon is much more urban, and license purchases have been in decline for years. Federal funding from the sale of hunting and fishing equipment has also precipitously declined.

Additionally, the mission of ODFW has expanded. The Department now has to engage in efforts to support endangered species such as salmon, steelhead, Oregon chub, and wolves. It must also fight destructive invasive species that hitchhike into Oregon, and the Department must expend considerable effort to conform to extensive requirements from federal agencies.

Furthermore, ODFW must now educate our urban populace about fishing and hunting in order to support license sales. Finally to build public support for measures that improve habitat, the Department must help the public understand the importance of the habitat requirements for our native fish and wildlife.

Because Oregon's demographics and the mission of ODFW have changed, we now need to change how we finance the Department.

I support a very modest increase in license fees to support hunting and fishing services.

ODFW should also receive more funds from the general fund to support the local biologists who are the heart of the Department. I especially support the STEP biologists who are so active in education, public outreach, and habitat restoration.

Over the years I have had the privilege of serving on many ODFW committees, commissions, and boards and have worked with headquarters staff and local biologists from Astoria to Gold Beach, from Wallowa to Lakeview. I have found them all to be dedicated, knowledgeable, hard working advocates for Oregon's hunters and anglers and for the habitat that supports Oregon's native fish and wildlife.

Thank you for considering my request.

Bob Bumstead
1770 Skyline Blvd
Eugene, Oregon

From: [Leah Emmett](#)
To: [waysandmeans budget](#)
Subject: Divert the Kicker for Education
Date: Thursday, April 23, 2015 8:34:53 PM

Thank you to the Ways and Means committee for traveling around Oregon to hear from its citizens and also for your commitment to serving the people of Oregon.

My name is Leah Emmett and my children are Allison and Andy. Allison started Kindergarten this year in the Springfield Public School District and Andy will start private preschool next year. As you can see, we have many years of public school instruction before us.

I've read that the K-12 budget passed this session is a 9% increase from the prior year (wow!), but according to some educators and lawmakers this year's budget still falls short and school districts are looking at making cuts to programs.

I've also read that it appears the state kicker law will come into effect this year. That's a great sign of better economic times! What bothers me is lawmakers and educators acknowledge the K-12 budget is not adequate and at the same time we will be sending money back to taxpayers. Money that could, and should, be used to bridge the gap we are facing in public school funding.

So, I'm urging and encouraging you to make the politically difficult decision to divert the kicker to help adequately fund K-12 education this year and hopefully in the future, too.

I would also like to mention what a great Early Literacy program Springfield Public Library hosts with Willamalane Parks and Recreation. As I understand, this program is currently funded with grants. I would love to see this excellent program fully funded and supported through the State of Oregon. It would best serve our community of Springfield if it could be hosted twice a week, Monday and Tuesday for example, so 3 year olds and 4 year olds who attend preschool could attend once a week. It truly is an excellent program!

Thank you

Leah Emmett

Springfield, Oregon

April 23, 2015

From: [Thomas Price](#)
To: [waysandmeans_budget](#)
Subject: Ways and Means - Oregon State Budget
Date: Thursday, April 23, 2015 6:56:08 PM

I got here early but it is already 8 pages of people speaking ahead of me.

I am also sending this to waysandmeans.budget@state.or.us to adding your voice to mine to get on record.

To whom it may concern:

Please Support and Fully Fund Tabaco Prevention and Education Program (TPEP)

Please Support and Fully Fund **Breast and Cervical Cancer (BCCP) Funding**

I have a mother who just had her first just surgery to remove a tumor in one of here breast this last Friday. We have already watched my Grandmother, her mother, die after a 14 year battle with breast cancer.

What should I tell my daughter? Will I get to tell her you are doing everything you can to protect her and other women/young woman? I have three boys. What do I get to tell them?

I have many other friends also battling cancer. I imagine it has touched your life too.

Let's work together to change this story to a more positive one.

Thomas Price

ThomasEPrice@Gmail.com
541-554-2581/877-278-3083

3560 Wilshire Lane
Eugene, OR 97405

To Co-chairs Monroe and Komp,

My name is Jonathan Kiser and I am currently completing my sophomore year at Chemeketa Community College, and plan on receiving my AAOT in education at the end of this term. Education is something very important to my life. I have grown up under two teachers and have spent my entire life around the education system. It was an easy decision for me when I decided to pursue a career in teaching. To me, education is the most powerful thing that people can receive. If we have a society that is educated, then we have a society that can function at its best potential. It has been proven across the world that educating people provides power to people who feel powerless. After taking multiple courses about international development, I have seen many examples of how people feel empowered when they are educated. Education is an amazing privilege that we have here in America, and yet we still don't value it.

I personally don't have a backstory that shows my struggle with education and funding. I have an amazing family that has supported my entire journey through school. However, I know of many people who have struggled to receive a proper education because they couldn't afford it. People have just as equal of a chance to receive an education in college as I do, whether they have the adequate funding or not. Financial aid and scholarships can only help a student so much. Raising tuition and the price to attend college is not the answer for allowing everyone to receive a proper education. There is so much untapped potential in our world because they don't have the chance to display it and help it grow. If collegiate institutions receive the funding that they are requesting for from the state, then they won't have to raise the cost of college. They won't have to turn away students from receiving the education that they need to be successful in life.

Education should be our primary investment in our state and country. Please consider how important education is to all people. More funding for higher education means more opportunities for students who don't have the ability to receive a very beneficial education. Thank you for reading this letter and I hope that you strongly consider providing more funding for higher education.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Kiser



JAY BOZIEVICH

Lane County Commissioner
West Lane District
jay.bozievich@co.lane.or.us

DATE: April 23, 2015
TO: Joint Committee on Ways and Means (public hearing in Springfield)
RE: Lane County budgetary priorities

Lane County received some good news yesterday. Our unemployment rate for March was the lowest it has been since 2008. Along with that news, however, came stagnant wage data. Job growth has primarily been in the lower paying retail and service sectors and thus demand for public services will likely remain high without concurrent increases in property tax revenue. In terms of Lane County's budget, we delivered our proposed budget for the coming fiscal year to the printer two days ago. We will spend the next eight weeks holding public meetings and receiving input from both the public and our departments prior to adopting a budget in June, not unlike the process you are undertaking.

Both our all funds budget and our general fund budget are practically flat compared to last year, and we are celebrating that. But we, like you, will not have enough money for all the services we would like to provide. This is why our partnership is so important. I am sure you have all heard about the shared services chart, but it is worth another look. With our combined efforts, it is these services that we collectively deliver to our shared constituencies.

In the spirit of our partnership, and recognizing that it imperative that government at all levels builds trust with our voters in order to gain their support for local revenues, we ask that you take note of our funding priorities within your purview:

Public Safety

Community Corrections Program Funding: In order to avoid the opt out trigger, CCA needs to be at \$247M, and we appreciate that the framework recognized the importance of this funding.

Justice Reinvestment Program Funding: We previously reached out to the Co-Chairs with a broad coalition of local partners asking you to recognize the savings to the state of \$58M due to avoided prison construction funding. We appreciate your more recent willingness to examine a compromise amount of \$40M, both well above your framework, but well below our expectation after the work we put in to make HB 3194 function as planned.

Criminal Justice-Behavioral Health Partnership: Local police agencies have repeated encounters with perpetrators of nuisance crimes that are often associated with substance abuse or mental health issues. The grant program for jail diversion grants worked out fine for Lane County, but competitive grant programs with a two year run are no way to ensure community based programs are solidly in place. We urge you to find a stable source of revenue for these programs, otherwise our fear is that both state and local dollars will be spent simply on rearrest after rearrest, without real change occurring.

Funding for Public Health Modernization

Public Health Modernization: HB 3100 is coming your way for additional work. We continue to put our general fund into public health in excess of the state. We are happy to work on modernization and foundational capabilities, but it is imperative that you find a stable source of revenue for these services.

Impact of DIS and CD reductions at state: The Public Health Division's proposed budget has shifted state FTE's affiliated with this work pushing more work to the County level, and that has a large bearing on any local public health authority's ability to provide this work in a responsive and consistent manner. With the well-publicized outbreak of meningococcal disease at the UO, we sorely missed the assistance from the state that used to be present.

Developmental Disabilities

95% Funding Model: Our case managers are on the front line in dealing with recent state and federal changes and program implementations to assure the independence, safety and protection of those families and individuals dealing with intellectual and developmental disabilities. It is imperative that the Legislature adequately fund the necessary infrastructure, and we support funding the workload within the 95% equity model. This will ensure that the DD system assists children and adults with ID/DD to have full lives, and to meet federal requirements for Employment First, the K State Plan entitlement, and home and community based services.

Economic Development

Gain Share: The best vehicle moving forward is Senate Bill 129. It is the product of a bipartisan and bicameral legislative work group. It represents a reasonable balance and preserves local government's ability to invest in local development through tax incentives. It will distribute money statewide for career and technical education, OSU extension, and into the state school fund for years to come.

Elections

Motor Voter: One of the first bills that our Governor Brown signed was HB 2177. This measure will require us to invest additional and limited general fund into our elections division to track new, highly mobile, and sometimes reluctant, registered voters. We heard promises that counties would see additional committed revenues before that measure left the building, but that has not occurred.

Property Tax Assistance

County Assessment Financial Function Assistance: We approved our CAFFA grant application this week at our Board meeting. Our Assessor noted that the grant will cover 17% of his budget. It was designed by the Legislature to cover 40%. We ask that you recommit to the \$5M general fund contribution to CAFFA that you swept in 2008 and never replaced.

Thank you for consideration of our priorities and I want to express my thanks for your careful consideration of our State's fiscal resources.

ELECTRONICALLY SUBMITTED

From: [Kalleen](#)
To: [waysandmeans budget](#); [Kalleen](#)
Subject: 32 kids in my second grader's classroom
Date: Wednesday, April 22, 2015 3:22:29 PM

Hello,

My name is Kalleen Stoddard. I have a 5th grader and a 2nd grader at Gilham Elementary School in Eugene. I am writing to express my concern that there are currently 32 children in my second grader's classroom. There are also 32 kids in the other second grade classroom, and 30 in the third second grade classroom. This is way too many children for any teacher to effectively educate. I frequently volunteer in the classroom and I know that the teacher is very experienced and organized, however, the classroom is still noisy and crowded because there are simply so many children in the classroom.

My son comes home from school in the afternoon and he is very tired. He tells me that he is tired of listening to all of the kids in his class and because his desk is so close to other kids, he is constantly bumped and touched all day long by others. He has been very sick this year. He has had strep throat, ear infections, the flu, and pneumonia. I feel that this is partly due to the fact that so many kids are shoved into his classroom.

I am very concerned about how the state is going to pay for all day kindergarten and try to decrease class sizes or even keep them the same. I really hope that additional funding will somehow be obtained. I am ready to pay a sales tax, if it went exclusively to education, and I believe that many other parents are as well. I also feel that large corporations such as Nike are not paying their fair share of taxes to support education and I would love to see more discussions about how this might be changed.

Thank you for all that you do to support public education in the state of Oregon.

Sincerely,

Kalleen Stoddard
2321 Park View Drive
Eugene, Oregon, 97408

Testimony Ways and Means – Scott Sublette

Good evening. My name is Scott Sublette and I am a longtime resident of Yoncalla which is about 45 minutes south of here.

I am here tonight to highlight the importance of early childhood support and education. Yoncalla is historically known for ranching, farming and timber but not typically recognized for innovative early childhood and education projects.

I care about early education because...

- I, personally, did not start reading until the 5th grade.
- As a senior in high school, I was diagnosed as dyslexic.
- I was able to get by in school with a very good memory and strong aptitudes in math and science.
- I went to college at Oregon State University and studied Animal Science.
- I raised my family on a farm in Yoncalla and my children graduated from Yoncalla schools.
- I am a school board member and serve on several committees in our community.

Finally, kids in Yoncalla have a chance to start their education sooner so they'll have greater success.

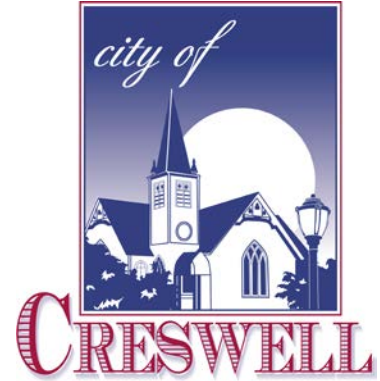
- A few years back, administrators in our school district began noticing declining test scores in our elementary students.
- Three years ago Yoncalla Elementary became the rural demonstration site for Early Works, a partnership between Yoncalla School District, the Ford Family Foundation, the Children's Institute and Portland State University.
- This initiative focuses on aligning early childhood programs with the early elementary grades.
- Last year I was a member of the first Ford Family Foundation Cohort in North Douglas County.
- Our group project focused on early literacy in the towns of Drain, Yoncalla and Elkton.
- We raised money and supported books and evidence-based early literacy trainings in the region.
- The Early Works project has helped to leverage other funding to support similar efforts in Drain and Elkton.
- This work will help to provide a template for other rural areas looking to provide similar opportunities.
- We're doing this because we know starting earlier is what is going to make the difference for our kids.

The legislature can help us do more for our youngest children.

- I know that you have much to consider as legislators.
- I know that funding is limited.
- I simply want to advocate for investments in early childhood programs.
- I hope you support a \$30 million investment in pre-school, \$10 million for home visiting and \$5 million for the Kindergarten Partnership and Innovation Fund.
- These are important and I ask that you fully fund them.
- I was lucky to make it to college with the learning barrier that I faced.
- Many children are not so fortunate.
- We save money by investing early.

Thank you for your time.

City of Creswell
13 South 1st Street, P.O. Box 276 Creswell, OR 97426
Ph (541) 895-2531 Fax (541) 895-3647



April 30, 2015

To: State of Oregon Joint Committee on Ways and Means

RE: Testimony for Public Meeting on April 23, 2015 in Springfield, Oregon

* * * *

Good evening Senator Devlin and Representative Buckley and Members of the 2015 Joint Committee on Ways and Means.

I am here tonight to talk about creating jobs in Oregon's small towns; therefore, I am asking for your continued support and adequate funding of Business Oregon's **Brownfield Redevelopment Fund.**

As you are aware this fund provides grants to communities who have an interest in improving properties in need of redevelopment.

I can easily provide you with two examples from my personal experience where this fund has made or will make a significant difference to Oregonians as well as the small, rural cities in which they live.

Toledo – pop. 3,464

Brownfield Redevelopment Fund money was used to revitalize the Port of Toledo Shipyard. A few years ago Fred Wahl closed down his boat yard on the Yaquina River. The result would be a loss of jobs as well as an important industry in the town. The Port of Toledo was able to develop a long-term vision to buy and operate the yard. They had little to no funding for such an undertaking. However, funding provided through Business Oregon programs were used to perform assessments and cleanup of contaminated soils as well as redevelopment of the property. The Toledo Boatyard is still evolving but it is doing well, and more importantly is providing local workers with the opportunity to work at a skilled job that pays a family wage. These jobs bring millions of dollars into the local economy. It is estimated that the larger fishing boats that come up the Yaquina for repairs and refitting spend \$200,000 to \$400,000 on rehab every two to five years.

Creswell – pop. 5076

The Bald Knob mill burned in 2008 and the land has languished in an unproductive state ever since. In addition to the loss of family-wage jobs the absence of business activity on the property has provided the opportunity for less desirable activities which have caused public safety concerns.

The property owner has had the land for sale for years – and at \$2.5 million for 44 acres of industrial land with close by freeway access and rail access it is a deal! But there are no takers. Why?

The City of Creswell is exploring various avenues to turn this neglected liability into an asset for the community. In addition to creating a shovel-ready space for new industries, we would like to reclaim the waterway to improve water quality flowing into Garden Lake Park and, ultimately, the Willamette River. The State has already stepped forward and has granted \$59,000 for a Phase I and Phase II environmental assessment – which is the first step in the City's due diligence in a process in which we are hopeful that we will acquire the property for redevelopment, which ultimately, will result in new jobs in our community.

Please keep the Brownfield's funding at a level where jobs continue to be created in a meaningful way. Without this funding how will small cities recycle fallow industrial land in to productive, job-sustaining land?

I cannot imagine what small cities will do without this funding.

Thank you.

Regards,

Michelle Amberg
City Administrator
mdamberg@creswell-or.us
(541) 985-2531 ext. 308



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Women's Program Director
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Finance and Administration*
Michael Wright,
Men's Program Director

Tax ID # 93-0639815

April 23, 2015

To: Joint Committee on Ways and Means

My name is Hannah Harrod and I work in Program Development at Sponsors, Inc. in Eugene, OR. We provide reentry services for people returning to Lane County from prison and jail. We currently provide 145 beds of transitional housing for men, women and children as well as a host of ancillary services designed to support those who would otherwise be homeless. Sponsors employs recognized best practices to help people who were formerly incarcerated stay out of prison for good.

I am here today to speak on behalf of fully funding the Justice Reinvestment Program at the \$58.5 million dollars that was initially recommended in the Governor's budget. The original recommended budget was based on actual projected costs avoided through HB 3194 and the flat lining of prison growth. If we are going to successfully keep people out of prison, we need to invest every dollar of that cost-savings into building new infrastructure and supporting existing organizational capacity. In Lane County, we are continuously working to create and replicate evidence-based models that will keep us from relying on prison beds to meet our public safety needs. In order to do this right, we need increased financial assistance in the short-run. In the long-run, however, that assistance will actually shift our dependence on prison beds and enable us to meet many of our public safety needs within our own community.

In just one year we have already seen the positive impacts of HB 3194 through a 3.8 percent drop in prison intakes across the state from 2013-2014. Justice Reinvestment is cost-avoidant, and if we desire to prevent crime, avoid the creation of new victims, and ensure continued savings to the state, then we cannot afford to improperly fund it now. Diverting people from prison only works when there are evidence-based programs, like Sponsors, in place to meet needs such as housing, employment, drug and alcohol treatment and mental health services. As a result, I also support the investment of \$100 million into the development of new affordable housing opportunities. I know that secure and stable housing should be accessible to every Oregonian and goes hand in hand with creating public safety.

Every day I interact with people who are trying to rebuild their lives after time spent in prison or jail.

Prisoner Reentry Services Since 1973





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I see them working to change their thinking patterns and behaviors, to take accountability for their actions, and to become productive members of society. Those of us who commit our lives to supporting this work- we know what we need to be successful. We need increased resources to provide the services that keep our communities safe, change lives and keep people out of prison for good.

Thank you for your commitment to public safety and to Justice Reinvestment.

Hannah Harrod, Program Development Specialist, Sponsors, Inc.

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Women's Program Director
John Hawley, *Director of
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Michael Wright,
Men's Program Director

Tax ID # 93-0639815

Prisoner Reentry Services Since 1973

338 Highway 99 North, Eugene, OR 97402 • Phone 541-485-8341 • Fax 541-683-6196 • www.sponsorsinc.org



From: **Dawn Lesley** <dawnlesley6@gmail.com>

Date: Thu, Apr 23, 2015 at 10:01 AM

Subject: Comment from Eugene 4J School District parent - funding level is unacceptable

I am a parent of a 5th grader at the River Road/Camino del Rio Elementary School in Eugene's 4J School District. I have been spending volunteer time in the classroom this week to provide math tutoring to children “opted out” of OAKS testing during the test sessions. I have two comments to share:

1. I am stunned by the volume of behavioral difficulties the teacher is expected to manage, by herself, in a class containing 26 students. I understand why “special needs” kids are streamlined into mainstream classes, but when that occurs there need to be additional staff in the classroom to make it work. Existing budgets clearly do not provide adequate support to my son’s class, to the detriment of the teacher and each and every student, special needs or not.

2. I believe that the statewide discussion has failed to honestly communicate the number of hours the OAKS testing is taking in the classroom. Looking at the schedule sent home to parents, it appears that 10 hours are devoted to these tests. That would be bad enough in terms of “wasted time,” which I believe this testing to be. However the schedule’s representation of 10 hours is not full disclosure. Each and every test has multiple hours of “practice” and “preparation” time eating up *more* of our children’s already limited class time. The “practice” and “preparation” time is not formally scheduled, so we are uninformed when it is occurring and how much time will actually be spent on it. In my case, working with other parents to try and cover wasted test time, we cannot provide support if no schedule is offered.

I urge the Legislature to provide additional funding that would allow more classroom aides for classrooms with special needs children, and to drop the OAKS testing, which is wasting even more precious class time than has been officially communicated to parents.

Thank you for your attention, and for your service to our state,

Dawn Lesley

4495 River Road

Eugene, OR 97404

[541.461.1642](tel:541.461.1642)



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Michael Wright,
Men's Program Director

Tax ID # 93-0639815

April 23, 2015

To: Joint Committee on Ways and Means

My name is Paul Solomon and I am the Executive Director at Sponsors, Inc., Oregon's oldest reentry service provider. I am also the Vice-Chair of Lane County's Public Safety Coordinating Council (PSCC); and serve on the Governor's Reentry Council and many other boards related to public safety.

I am here today to express my concern regarding the proposed \$20 M in funding for the Justice Reinvestment Program in your budget. I would like to strongly encourage the committee to fully fund Justice Reinvestment at the \$58 M level that is in the Governor's budget. I would also like to express my support for the proposed investment of \$100 Million into affordable housing.

I serve on the HB 3194 Metro Region Implementation Committee (RIC). We have been charged with monitoring the counties progress in their efforts to reduce their prison intakes and lengths of stay and the number of people released on PPS being returned to prison. During the first year of the biennium Lane County was falling behind our Metro county counterparts, continuing to use more prison beds, with higher lengths of stay, high levels of revocation and many people failing on PPS. In the last two quarters our numbers have changed dramatically, for a variety of reasons. One is that we have just begun to build the infrastructure locally to provide the necessary programs for those being released on STTL as well as meaningful changes on the front end. In fact, we are just starting to model Marion County's SB 416 diversion program for property crime offenders through a CJC/BJA grant. Our plan is to sustain this program, which will further reduce our dependence on prison beds, with funding from Justice Reinvestment. However, at the current level funded in your budget, that will not be possible. Lane County is on a public safety precipice. Our system has been slowly eviscerated over the past two decades. We are looking at major reduction in our Community Corrections Grant and Aid funding. Without more robust funding for Justice Reinvestment, I can guarantee you we will regress and be that county that sends more people to prison because we do not have the adequate resources to address the needs of this high risk population.

Conversely, we are changing lives, holding people accountable, and making our community safer through the initial investments made with Justice Reinvestment. Despite the loss of federal timber subsidies and other resources, we have made great strides through innovative programs and partnerships.

Prisoner Reentry Services Since 1973



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Please allow us the opportunity to continue these efforts by funding the Justice Reinvestment program at \$58 M. Otherwise, the savings will evaporate and you will find yourselves paying to open new beds in Madras and a new prison in Junction City at much greater expense. I am hopeful that you will make the right choice.

Sincerely,


Paul Solomon, Executive Director

Staff

Paul Solomon,
Executive Director
Ron Chase,
Executive Director Emeritus
Amy Cook,
Reentry Resource Center Director
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Lane Early Learning Alliance

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earlylearningalliance.org



Co-Chairs Buckley and Devlin
Joint Committee On Ways and Means
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Co-Chairs Buckley & Devlin and Members of the Committee,

As the backbone support organization for the Lane Early Learning Alliance, United Way of Lane County is pleased to submit testimony in support of funding early learning hubs. It is critical to fund hubs at a level that continues the work local communities have undertaken to align early learning systems, support thriving families and ensure children are ready to succeed in kindergarten.

We know our community has approximately 7,000 underserved children. These children are less likely to receive services and supports and more likely to struggle in school as a result. It is our responsibility to close this opportunity gap and give all children the best chances for success.

Our community has firsthand experience with the capacity for change that Early Learning Hubs present. Working with OSLC Developments, Incorporated and the Creswell and Eugene 4J school districts using funding provided through the Kindergarten Partnership and Innovation grant, this past summer we were able to begin scaling an evidence-based school readiness program that has been proven to increase the early literacy and social emotional skills of kindergarteners, the Kids in Transition to School (KITS) program.

The KITS program has been shown in randomized clinical efficacy trials to improve children's early literacy and social emotional skills prior to kindergarten. Gains continue to positively affect the children's adjustment in kindergarten and first grade. Additionally, parents' skills improve and this leads to increases in parent involvement in the children's schooling. The KITS program has worked with dual language learners and their parents as well as families from a range of ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds. United Way of Lane County, and now the Lane Early Learning Alliance, has a long history of successfully partnering with the KITS program and local school districts to provide this summer learning opportunity.

Developed at the Oregon Social Learning Center, the KITS program is a 16-week school readiness intervention for children and their parents that takes place in the summer eight weeks prior to kindergarten entry and afterschool for the first eight of school. The KITS program provides a boost to entering kindergartners' literacy, self-regulation, and social skills through a 24 session school readiness group for the children and a 12 session workshop for the parents.

KITS is one component of the Lane Early Learning Alliance's comprehensive approach to closing the opportunity gap early. For example, through our Early Literacy grant efforts we have also:

- Trained over 100 local early learning providers in evidence-based early literacy curricula;
- Established a book rotation program that currently serves 350 parents through our network of school-based Family Resource Centers and 60 child care providers through our local Child Care Resource and Referral agency;
- Distributed over 2,000 books to children through our three Summer Reading Spots program held in local parks in conjunction with Food for Lane County's Summer Lunch Program.

The Lane Early Learning Alliance also has robust efforts underway to ensure that all children receive at least one developmental screening before age three. In the short time that our hub has been operating and in partnership with our local Coordinated Care Organization, Trillium Community Health Plan, the developmental screening rate has jumped from 17% to 41%. Community partners are working to ensure that not only do children receive this screening, but more importantly, are connected to the community resources and supports to address their needs.

We have done significant work in the community to build relationships and create the infrastructure of a true early learning system. We urge your support for early learning and funding of hubs at a level that will allow us to continue this important work.

Sincerely,



Noreen J. Dunnells
Executive Director
United Way of Lane County



Holly Mar-Conte
Director of Education
United Way of Lane County



145 SE Salmon Avenue, Redmond, Oregon 97756 / P 541.693.5600 F 541.693.5601 www.hdesd.org

April 22, 2015

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

We are reaching out to you as members of a united K-12 education community in Central Oregon to express our disappointment with the initial allocation for K-12 education that was recently passed by the Legislature. We were hoping to speak to you directly at one of the hearings being held by the Ways and Means Committee around the State. Unfortunately, that opportunity is unavailable this session, as the Committee will not be stopping in Central Oregon. In lieu of testimony, this letter is written with support from the entire Central Oregon region, including six school districts and two ESDs. We believe it is important that we come forward together to share our stories of how much this proposed budget would hurt our students in the next biennium.

The currently appropriated funding level (\$7.255 billion) WILL, without question, result in a reduction of services to children in Central Oregon. Budgets have been drafted in each of our local districts, and the impacts of the current funding level are readily identifiable. Here are just a few of the challenges we face:

- In Bend-La Pine, class sizes will rise as needed teaching positions are left unfunded, along with the purchase of updated curricular materials;
- Crook County will be unable to fund supports and interventions necessary to improve local graduation rates;
- Culver's emergent efforts to create a district-wide STEM program for all children will be hobbled;
- In Madras, Jefferson County School District 509j will not be able to sustain current program levels and student supports without having to utilize reserve funds, just when achievement is on an upswing;
- The school year will remain shortened by two days in Redmond, denying children valuable learning time; and,
- In Sisters, class sizes will rise due to staff layoffs and leaving needed positions unfilled, along with instructional materials not being purchased.

We speak as a united voice, school districts large and small in Central Oregon: K-12 funding must reach \$7.5 billion for the next biennium to avoid reductions to essential educational services in our area. We ask that you take the steps necessary to provide at least that level of funding.

Thank you for your time and effort supporting students and families across the state of Oregon.

Sincerely,



John M. Rexford, Superintendent
High Desert Education Service District

On behalf of the following Central Oregon Superintendents:

Ron Wilkinson, Bend-La Pine Schools
Duane Yecha, Crook County Schools
Stefanie Garber, Culver School District
Rick Molitor, Jefferson County 509j School District; Jefferson County ESD
Mike McIntosh, Redmond School District
Jim Golden, Sisters Public Schools

Testimony in support of HB 2828
Presented by Charlie Swanson, Eugene (HD 11)

Co-chairs Buckley and Devlin, members of the committee – I am Charlie Swanson, from Eugene and with Health Care for All Oregon (HCAO). I sat through and listened with you to the testimony given at the April 23rd hearing in Springfield. I didn't have a chance to present my testimony, so I will do so by email.

Much of the testimony was in support of increased funding for education – k-12, community colleges, and the university system, all of which certainly need the funding. The bill for which I am asking funding, HB 2828, deals with a way to save the state money – billions of dollars each year, though the savings would be for the state as whole, not just government. HB 2828 extends the dates for a health care financing study that was approved in the 2013 session without funding. I urge you to fully fund this study, which is expected to cost in the neighborhood of \$350,000. This is less than a dime per Oregonian, and we expect it to lead to savings of over \$1,000 annually per Oregonian.

Adding that amount to the k-12 budget or the community college budget would be insignificant. But using that money to fund a careful study of health care financing could lead to large savings in state expenditures in the future, and even larger savings collectively for individual Oregonians.

This is an opportunity that we cannot afford to pass up. Please fully fund HB 2828.

Thank you for the opportunity to present my testimony.

From: [Ted Taylor](#)
To: [waysandmeans budget](#)
Subject: Written testimony regarding ODFW budget
Date: Saturday, April 25, 2015 4:14:29 PM

To the Ways and Means Committee April 25, 2015:

I was unable to testify at your budget meeting and public hearing in Springfield April 24.

Regarding the budget deficit projected for ODFW in the next two-year budget cycle, I urge you to **allocate more general fund dollars to ODFW** and even **increase commercial and recreation fees**. Many Oregonians complain that the hunting and fishing fees are too high, but I think they are a bargain.

If ODFW budget cuts must be made, please **do not cut field and district biologists** who do such important work. I also urge you to not reduce funding for programs that protect endangered species, or the health and viability of our waterways and riparian areas.

Thanks,

Ted Taylor

Oregon resident for 62 years and disabled Vietnam vet

2020 McLean Blvd.

Eugene, OR 97405

From: [Marc Shapiro](#)
To: [waysandmeans budget](#)
Subject: Testimony - Springfield Hearing
Date: Saturday, April 25, 2015 2:04:32 PM

For those of you who don't know me, I am a Eugene/Lane county resident. With you, I sat through and listened to the testimony given at the April 23rd Springfield hearing. I didn't have the opportunity to speak, and if I did, I would not have had adequate time communicate my thoughts, as given below.

My primary request is that you provide the funding necessary to implement HB 2828. For the cost of less than \$6 for every million dollars of state expenditures in the 2015-2017 biennium

HB 2828 would provide a comprehensive examination of how we finance and deliver health care. By looking at different methods for doing so, it would determine what system can best provide for comprehensive Universal health care for the entire Oregon population. If you read through what I present below, I trust you will understand why this is so important.

At Thursday's hearing, I was duly impressed by the universal validity and significance of the needs presented along with the truly impassioned pleas for financial assistance. Not surprisingly, all those pleas were presented as though you had an unlimited source of funds with which to satisfy all the requests made. In spite of the fact that all speakers had had opportunity to hear those who went before them, with one exception, they invariably presented their respective cause as though the others did not exist.

Conspicuously absent from ALL testimony were questions about the expenditures of allocated funding. No one asked why the cost of education, on every level, is rising so much faster than the inflation of the overall economy. Certainly, there is no chance for the state to adequately fund and continue to adequately fund public services if its costs continue to rise faster than the economy that supports it. While, conceptually, adjustments in the tax structure and certainly elimination of the "kicker" could go a long way toward improving the state's ability to provide the requested funding on so many levels, only bringing public income and funding in line with each other on a continuing basis could change Ways and Means' position of perpetual crisis management.

I believe a close examination of allocation of funds in large educational institutions would be very enlightening with respect to the causes of tuition rising faster than students' ability to pay for their own education. Clearly, the state providing free secondary education, at least with means testing, would be advantageous.

The largest common thread causing financial crisis in the public-sector, and the economy in general, is the present and continually rising cost of health care. With health insurance representing a cost to public institutions of as much as twenty four percent of payroll, while

employee's co-pays and deductibles continue to rise, it clearly presents an avenue that needs close examination if there is to be any hope of balancing state income with expenditures.

The implementation of the ACA (I prefer to call it the "Unaffordable Care Act") has clearly not provided universal affordable access to health care. The expansion in enrollment in the Oregon Health Plan resulting from the ACA is definitely a positive outcome. It certainly would be enhanced if its funding provided more care and filled less the coffers of the for-profit insurance companies that have been designated providers for the OHP population. For those whose income prevents them from participation in the OHP, the ACA is certainly a mixed bag. Many of those who receive substantial subsidies are still unable to afford the high deductibles and co-pays required by the available plans. Those who receive no subsidy find themselves required to pay for expensive health insurance and still lack access because after paying the premiums, they cannot afford the deductibles and co-pays. The \$6,000 annual out-of-pocket cap on covered individual health care expenditure can still drive individuals and families into homelessness and/or bankruptcy. While the ACA has definitely improved the situation for many (especially insurance companies and hospitals) by comparison to the period before the ACA, it is clearly a long way from providing "affordable" care to everyone, controlling the cost of HC delivery or preventing the financial trauma that so often accompanies accident or illness.

Health Care is a large, diversified and complex subject. To solve the problems it presents to the economy requires examination of every aspect of health care finance and delivery. Some questions jump out at you: How can a "non-profit" hospital like Peace Health - Secret Heart- River Bend report \$41 million in profit and still be considered "non-profit" (pays no taxes on income, pays no property taxes and provides exorbitant compensation to its officers while the basis for its charges remains an enigma)? How can a "non-profit" insurance company like PacificSource generate such huge profits as to be able to buy two other insurance companies FOR CASH? Why was Trillium designated the CCO entrusted with providing health care services to all Lane County OHP participants? Trillium which is apparently unable to adequately service the vast number of people it covers still expends massive amounts of money on advertising, and its profits are so large that it was just purchased by another insurance company.

I would hope that these examples would at least raise questions about how Oregon defines "not for profit", and how it chooses what providers should receive its Medicaid dollars.

Because of the unique programs that Oregon has put in place for delivering health care, it is impossible to draw direct parallels between it and any other state. However information from studies done elsewhere in the US indicate that implementation of a health care system that would be defined by the study in HB 2828 would reduce health care expenditures in Oregon on the order of \$8 billion annually.

All this leads back to my opening request that you allocate less than ten cents per Oregonian to fund HB 2828 which will, upon its completion, define how we can most effectively and most economically deliver health care to the Oregon's population. Implementation of the results of the HB 2828 study would provide for a significant increase in the stability of financing public institutions and private business, and relieve the Oregon population from much of the health, emotional and financial insecurity that accompanies our current costly

and disjointed approach to health care delivery.

Thank you for considering my input to the difficult process of allocating Oregon's public funds.

Marc Shapiro
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Lane County Health & Human Services (retired)

Joint Ways and Means Committee Hearing
Testimony re: HB 5026 Oregon Hunger Response Fund
April 23, 2015

Thank you for this opportunity for public comment. I began working at FOOD for Lane County in 2009 straight out of graduate school. At the time, 20 percent of the residents in our county qualified for emergency food assistance with incomes at or below 185% of the poverty threshold. Today, nearly 6 years later, more than 1 in 3 Lane County residents qualify for emergency food assistance (41%). Working full time at \$11 per hour qualifies an individual for a monthly food box.

Every day when I get to work, this becomes more and more difficult to wrap my head around. Millions of pounds of food go to waste across our country, while nearly half of the population struggles to eat three meals a day. We have to accept that someone we know-perhaps a friend or a neighbor will skip a meal to ensure their children eat, or that a college students will forgo meals in order to buy books, or that a senior or a community elder will forgo calories or a doctor prescribed diet to pay for medications or to preserve their pride. This is wrong. This is morally wrong.

Over the last 6 years I have seen a sharp, steady increase in the number of people accessing an emergency food pantry. This last year, the need has finally begun to level off, but at a very high rate. Over 68,000 individuals in our county have eaten from a food box at least once in this past year. By the end of this year (now in our 3rd quarter), we are expecting to see 69,000 Lane County residents at least once at a food pantry.

While we are hopeful that progress in the economy and investments in education will paint a much better future for all Oregonians, we are also realistic in knowing that all things take time. We cannot pull the rug out from under our friends and neighbors before positive change takes hold.

I urge you to invest in the Oregon Hunger Response Fund at \$3.25 million, a \$506k increase over the last biennium. Please choose the DHS Policy Option Package 90 to maintain the current service levels of funding from the 2013-15 budget **AND also** the Oregon Food Bank ask of a \$436,462 increase to reach the \$3.25 million total for the 2015-17 biennium.

Respectfully,

Kara Smith
Community Engagement and Advocacy Coordinator
FOOD for Lane County

FOOD for Lane County is an equal opportunity provider and a member of



United Way
of Lane County



Ways and Means testimony 4/23/2015 Springfield, Oregon

Thank you Co-Chairs Buckley and Devlin and esteemed members of the Joint Ways and Means Committee.

My name is Jan Aho, I am the Executive Director of Pearl Buck Center. Our mission is to provide individuals with disabilities and their families quality supports and choices to achieve their goals. **I am here this evening to speak in support of full statewide funding for elderly and disabled transit services.**

Pearl Buck Center serves over 600 individuals who live in the Eugene/Springfield metro area. Many of those accessing the wide range of services we offer, rely solely on public or specialized transportation services to gain access to our community for work, appointments and recreation. **Reliable public transportation is critical to maximizing independence and fostering community inclusion.**

Some of the individuals we serve independently use LTD transit to get them to and from work at our W. 1st Ave location. As our location is not on a fixed route, LTD provides a bus to transport our clients from the downtown station to our location each morning and picks up clients twice in the afternoon. That partnership is **critical for access to and from work.**

Others who come to the center for work or recreational services are unable to safely use the regular LTD buses. These individuals use RideSource to travel to and from the center. All of our adult clients use LTD services to live independent, successful and fulfilling lives.

RideSource provides transportation to and from our specialized preschool for children ages 2 to 5 whose parents experience cognitive differences, most of whom do not drive and live throughout the metro area served by RideSource. Children cannot learn if they are not in school.

Attendance in the Pearl Buck Preschool averages 95% largely because we provide transportation, the cost of which is shared by LTD through Discretionary Grant and Pearl Buck Center.

Without the vital link to the community that public and specialized transportation provides, individuals with disabilities, as well as the elderly, would be living lives in isolation. Research shows that isolation often leads to depression and heart disease, as well as early death. One researcher found that isolation is a risk factor to our health on par with smoking or obesity. Who would have thought that riding a bus could lead to longer, healthier and happier lives!!

LTD and the Oregon Transit Association are seeking a \$70 million appropriation to fully fund statewide transportation services for the elderly and people with disabilities. RideSource and LTD make it possible for our clients to live independent, fulfilling and successful lives and I urge you to fully fund transportation services statewide. Thank you!

From: Melanie Oommen [<mailto:melanieo@fcceugene.org>]
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2015 11:00 AM
To: Jensen Julie
Subject: Re: Charter School Funding, SB 819

Dear Joint Ways and Means Committee,

I am a resident of Eugene and a parent of three children ages 10, 13, and 18. Our eldest will soon be graduating from Churchill High School in Eugene, and attended The Village School charter school in Eugene from kindergarten through eighth grades. He has been awarded a full tuition scholarship to Seattle University next year having been a very successful student, thanks to his excellent education at The Village School. My daughter is currently in her sixth year at The Village School and my other son will graduate from 8th grade at The Village School, also completing nine years there. My husband and I pay taxes at the same rate as others and we have long wondered why, by choosing an excellent and innovative education at The Village School, our children receive less of our community's resources than other children who are being publicly educated? The Village School has provided an excellent education to all three of our children, with much less funding, no access to transportation, and being routinely excluded from resources available to other public schools. Why? It seems to be that our wonderful school has been punished for innovation, excellence, and resourcefulness. With the same funding as other public schools, imagine what more this dedicated faculty could do and what more resources would be available to Eugene's children. I ask that our legislators do the equitable and fair thing and support SB 819 and hopefully correct the grave error of funding public school children at different rates. We believe in public education and believe that The Village School has made a major contribution to excellent public education that would never have happened were it left up to our overwhelmed 4J public school system.

Additionally, my husband taught at The Village School for 12 years. He was a highly dedicated and skilled teacher who was paid substantially less in salary and benefits than his counterparts in the "regular" public schools. His workload was no less, nor his commitment, than other public school teachers. This inequity needs to be addressed.

I urge you to share this letter with all those concerned making decisions about SB 819. The positive consequences of more equitable funding for all our public schools will only benefit all of our children.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration on this critical matter,

Melanie Oommen

1621 Grant Street

Eugene, OR 97402

541-684-9791

**Comments – Oregon State Ways and Means Committee
Pat Albright - Springfield, Oregon (4/23/15)**

USA Pat Albright
2712 Jackson St.
Eugene, OR 97405-2263

Good Evening. I am Pat Albright, a native Oregonian and a retired teacher with more than 30 years experience, 28 years at Springfield High School. I currently serve as chairman of the Lane Community College Board of Education.

Thank you for coming to Springfield to hear our myriad concerns.

I would like to focus this evening on Oregon's disinvestment in education over the past 25 years. It is causing significant challenges for our dedicated teachers and students and the vitality of our community. Our students suffer from reduced resources, program eliminations and increased class sizes.

It is time to lay this issue at the feet of our voters.

Schools and colleges are struggling to meet the demands, but at a cost that is a detriment to our students, their children and family.

At Lane Community College, after an enrollment surge that allowed us to survive the latest recession, we are now experiencing the anticipated drop in enrollment, and of course, a drop in revenues. Our students face continuing increases in tuition and our faculty has reluctantly accepted higher class loads. This year, for the first time in my tenure, we are faced with program reductions to balance the books

These continued challenges have been a frustration for our teachers and administrators alike.

Several of Lane's Board members and staff have met recently with other community leaders to discuss how to enhance student success in the face of the challenges they all face. The consensus – there are no easy answers.

Colleges and our k-12 colleagues can make some subtle and some courageous changes. But dramatic change sufficient to meet the needs of today's diverse and technological populations will require dramatic changes in our funding methods. We need to provide the resources necessary to help our students find the success they deserve.

K12 will require a substantial reinvestment to restore schools to the quality they enjoyed years ago. Despite the legislature's significant increase in k-12 funding this session, the allocation is still almost \$2 billion short of meeting the state's Quality Education Model.

For community colleges the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems has determined Oregon community colleges will need a state-wide allocation of about \$680 million to get on pace to meet the State's goals of 40-40-20. The current proposal of about \$550 million is laudable considering the legislature's limited funding, but it is woefully short if LCC and other community colleges are expected to meet the needs of our residents.

With the current projected funding levels, the laudable goals of 40-40-20 are pipe dreams that should be removed from current legislation until Oregon voters can demonstrate their willingness to fund education at a level that will provide all of our students the opportunity to find success.

We understand the legislature's inability to meet current quality education goals with current general fund limitations. But, it is now incumbent on our legislative leaders to take this issue to the voters and rally support to properly fund our schools. Our students and our future deserve that.

Thank you for your time and thank you for your efforts to serve your fellow Oregonians.

Co-chairs Senator Devlin and Representative Buckley and members of the committee, thank you for this opportunity to speak to you.

My name is Beth Gerot. I am a sixteen-year member of the Eugene School Board, a past president of the Oregon School Boards Association, and a seven-year member of the Quality Education Commission. Finally, I am a small business owner in Eugene and a member of the Oregon Business Association Education Committee.

I don't need to repeat what you have already heard about the impact of the \$7.255 billion K-12 school funding level. You already know that this budget will cause more cuts for our local schools and you know how concerned we are.

What I would like to speak to is how 25 years of disinvestment have impacted the ability of our schools to ensure that all students can grow to be happy, healthy, engaged participants in our communities.

During my time as an education advocate, I have seen our school years get shorter and our class sizes become enormous, because schools don't have adequate funding. At the same time, our schools have seen an incredible shift in students, in both special needs and diversity. And we have increased our expectations for teachers and administrators to meet state and federal mandates and to increase rigor and accountability.

These shifts require a very different method of delivering instruction than we were doing 25 years ago to ensure the success of all students. They require strong instructional leaders, time for teacher professional development and collaboration, and strong support systems at the district level. All of these are very hard to provide in a time of diminishing investments.

Our central administrators are wearing multiple hats as they try to meet the needs of our schools, our principals are serving as bus monitors as they also set the vision for their schools, and our teachers are teaching classes of more than 30 students including English language learners, talented and gifted students, and special education students while trying to develop individual relationships with each student and adjust instructional strategies to ensure success. This is not serving our students well.

I hope that you have read the 2014 summary report of the Quality Education Commission. It makes six recommendations that are critical to Oregon meeting its 40-40-20 goal by 2025 and clearly defines the funding level it will take to reach that goal. It's nearly \$2 billion more than the current K-12 budget.

When I communicated with some of you before the education budget passed the House and Senate, you all agreed that the current budget was inadequate and that you would work to increase school funding prior to the end of the session. I ask you to keep that promise. You also spoke to the needs of human services and the corrections system. I suggest that many of those costs would be much less if we had adequately invested in our schools over the last 25 years.

Our schools need your leadership. I ask you to take action to increase school funding to \$7.5 billion and adjust funding in the second year so that schools don't experience cuts in 2016-17. I also ask you to vote to suspend the kicker this year and to support kicker reform in the long term. Please, be bold, and show our students they are valued by investing in their future.

Thank you for this opportunity to speak.

Hello my NAME IS EILEEN ORDWAY AND
I AM A HOME CARE PROVIDER LIVING IN
SPRINGFIELD, OR. I AM HERE TODAY TO ASK
WAYS AND MEANS LEGISLATORS TO PLEASE
TRY AND AVOID PITTING ONE SERVICE NEED
AGAINST ANOTHER. YOU HAVE HEARD TESTIMONY
ABOUT MANY ISSUES THIS EVENING AND
THEY ARE ALL IMPORTANT. PLEASE - WE CAN
NOT AFFORD TO LET THIS BECOME A
COMPETITION BETWEEN WINNERS AND LOSERS.
YOU HAVE A TUGH JOB AND WE WANT
YOU TO KNOW WE THINK THERE ARE
A FEW THINGS TO INCLUDE IN THE
FUNDING EQUATION.

THE "INVEST IN OREGON"ⁿ REPORT LISTS
OUT A FEW WAYS TO FINANCE
SERVICES AND I WILL MENTION ONE.

TAXING E-CIGARETTES IS AN IMPORTANT
STEP TO BOTH HELP OUR FINANCES AND
INCENTIVIZE PEOPLE ~~TO~~ **BREAK** A
TOUGH ADDICTION. IT IS A WIN-WIN
SITUATION
AND WE HOPE THIS CONVERSATION FOR
FUNDING WILL CONTINUE WHEN YOU ALL
RETURN TO SALEM, TONIGHT.

THANK YOU!

School Garden Project of Lane County
PO Box 30072
Eugene, OR 97403

April 23, 2015

Testimony to the Joint Ways and Means Committee, Oregon Legislature

My name is John Moriarty and I am the Executive Director of School Garden Project of Lane County.

I'm here this evening to ask you to support passage and full funding of HB 2721, the Farm to School Bill that will enable all school districts in Oregon to procure Oregon produced foods, as well as competitive grant support for farm to school and school garden education. HB 2721 provides a *strategic* investment that will result in multiple positive outcomes.

First, economic outcomes- HB 2721 invests in Oregon agriculture. Funding enables every school district in the state to purchase Oregon products for their meal programs. This will provide direct benefit to farmers and build a network of supply and demand connections that may grow over time.

Second, educational outcomes- HB 2721 provides a competitive grant program that will support both schools and nonprofit organizations in bringing innovative educational programming to schools. In the case of School Garden Project, we currently serve approximately 1,250 K-8 Lane County students with in-school and/or afterschool, standards-aligned, garden-based education. Yet, according to Oregon Department of Education statistics for the 2014-15 school year, there are more than 30,000 K-8 students attending publicly supported schools in the county. HB 2721 funding will enable programs such as ours to continue expanding our reach. The results of this educational programming include:

- Increased science and STEM lesson retention
- Increased gardening skills
- Increased opportunity for in-school activity
- Increased consumption of vegetables.

Third, health outcomes- HB 2721 funding makes fresh, locally grown, processed, raised, and caught foods more accessible to schools. These products are often healthier than pre-packaged alternatives. Additionally, garden-based education is proven to increase children's preference for vegetables by introducing them to the process of growing their own school garden. Epidemic rates of childhood obesity are creating enormous health issues and associated costs. HB 2721 represents a small, but meaningful investment in building a comprehensive preventative health program that encourages better diet, a key component of reducing childhood obesity.

Please support HB 2721. It is another important step in the right direction for Oregon.

Thank you for your consideration.

Testimony provided to Ways & Means Committee

April 23, 2015

Springfield, Oregon

Chairs Buckley and Devlin, members of the committee thank you for this opportunity. For the record, I'm Colt Gill, superintendent of Bethel School District, COSA President, and chair of the Quality Education Commission.

You know of my support for a \$7.5 billion budget for the State School Fund and a traditional and *predictable* 49/51% split of those funds over the biennium.

Reducing investment in any part of the Birth-20 continuum will *continue* to decrease outcomes for Oregon's students.

With the current \$7.255 billion it is clear our students are not getting what they deserve. I went to school in Oregon and this is not the way the system, or Oregon's taxpayers, or our parents and grandparents treated us. We had strong schools that were the envy of other states. We went to the workplace and to college prepared to succeed.

Today our kids have the 2nd highest class sizes in the nation and one of the shortest school years. Our kids receive a full year's less education from 1st-12th grade than the national average, and that is if we were funding schools to meet Oregon's minimum standard. You know we are not and have not funded full school years for several years, in fact most of Oregon's current elementary school students have never even experienced full school year. How are our students to compete with students from other states? We are robbing a generation of their futures and a state of its prospective prosperity.

As we choose to cut education even more deeply, we are creating problems that we will cost our state for generations to come. We need to return to the *proactive ethic* Oregon's citizens, our parents and grandparents, provided for us just a few decades ago.

The hope I hold comes from legislators who vowed to do more before the session closes. We need to bring the state school fund up to \$7.5 billion just to maintain the less than adequate system that is currently in place and *more* if we want to change children's lives for the better in our state.

Please find a path to investment and make it clear that more cuts to our schools, more lost days, and even higher class sizes just cannot be tolerated.

Our economy has recovered. Our jobless rate is lower than the national average. It is time to invest in our future, in our children.

Thank you.

Co-chairs Senator Devlin and Representative Buckley and members of the committee, thank you for this opportunity to speak to you.

My name is Beth Gerot. I am a sixteen-year member of the Eugene School Board, a past president of the Oregon School Boards Association, and a seven-year member of the Quality Education Commission. Finally, I am a small business owner in Eugene and a member of the Oregon Business Association Education Committee.

I don't need to repeat what you have already heard about the impact of the \$7.255 billion K-12 school funding level. You already know that this budget will cause more cuts for our local schools and you know how concerned we are.

What I would like to speak to is how 25 years of disinvestment have impacted the ability of our schools to ensure that all students can grow to be happy, healthy, engaged participants in our communities.

During my time as an education advocate, I have seen our school years get shorter and our class sizes become enormous, because schools don't have adequate funding. At the same time, our schools have seen an incredible shift in students, in both special needs and diversity. And we have increased our expectations for teachers and administrators to meet state and federal mandates and to increase rigor and accountability.

These shifts require a very different method of delivering instruction than we were doing 25 years ago to ensure the success of all students. They require strong instructional leaders, time for teacher professional development and collaboration, and strong support systems at the district level. All of these are very hard to provide in a time of diminishing investments.

Our central administrators are wearing multiple hats as they try to meet the needs of our schools, our principals are serving as bus monitors as they also set the vision for their schools, and our teachers are teaching classes of more than 30 students including English language learners, talented and gifted students, and special education students while trying to develop individual relationships with each student and adjust instructional strategies to ensure success. This is not serving our students well.

I hope that you have read the 2014 summary report of the Quality Education Commission. It makes six recommendations that are critical to Oregon meeting its 40-40-20 goal by 2025 and clearly defines the funding level it will take to reach that goal. It's nearly \$2 billion more than the current K-12 budget.

When I communicated with some of you before the education budget passed the House and Senate, you all agreed that the current budget was inadequate and that you would work to increase school funding prior to the end of the session. I ask you to keep that promise. You also spoke to the needs of human services and the corrections system. I suggest that many of those costs would be much less if we had adequately invested in our schools over the last 25 years.

Our schools need your leadership. I ask you to take action to increase school funding to \$7.5 billion and adjust funding in the second year so that schools don't experience cuts in 2016-17. I also ask you to vote to suspend the kicker this year and to support kicker reform in the long term. Please, be bold, and show our students they are valued by investing in their future.

Thank you for this opportunity to speak.

~~Hello and thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak to you all today.~~ My name is Deanna Tough and I am a Direct Support Professional, a job I take very seriously and I hold near and dear to my heart. I would like to start out by giving you a little peek into my life. I have 5 children ranging from the age of 7-22 years old, as well as a 2 year old grandchild, with another one on the way. In addition to my five children ~~and grandchildren~~, I also have my mom living at my home that we help to take care of. My husband and I both work, but still, more often than not, we have trouble making ends meet. In addition to all of our living expenses, I am paying on my student loans. My husband and I fall just above the line to get any aid from the state, so sometimes we have to pick what bills are going to be paid, and which ones can hold off. ~~I live about 35 miles one way from the program I work at, which adds up to around \$200.00 in gas a month. My monthly income from Alford Taylor is a few dollars more than \$1200.00 a month.~~

With that being said, I want to tell you all that I have thought of trying to get a higher paying job, maybe even one closer to home, but honestly, I love my job. I make a difference in some one's life every single day. The responsibility that goes along with this job is huge. We are trusted with great a responsibility, ***Assisting people with disabilities to live quality lives in the community.*** We, as DSP workers, are also responsible for medications, controlled and non controlled. We are responsible for bank accounts and money that belong to the people we support. We are also responsible for setting and taking them to their Dr. appointments, as well as supporting them in their daily routines. Community Inclusion is another huge part of the supports we provide. The things we take for granted, like a run to the store, paying bills, or even going to the park on a sunny day can be challenging for the individuals we support, as well as staff. This is a very important job, one

which should not be taken lightly. The people we support count on us to show up each day, with a smile on our face, ready to have a great day.

It takes a long time, ~~6 months~~, sometimes even a year, to create a trusting, working rapport with the people we support. I believe this is due in part to the turnover in our field. When a DSP worker leaves the program they are working in, it can take up to a month or two, sometimes even longer, to get that position filled again. This means that the rest of the DSP workers at that program are picking up extra shifts so that the person supported is effected by this change as minimal as possible. So, now, we have employees that are already in a 35-40 hour work week, putting in 20-30 hours more a week, which causes burn out, and more people leave. This is a vicious cycle I have seen played out many times. It is a very unfortunate circumstance, that effects more than just the employees, but it also deeply effects the people we are here to support. There has to be a light at the end of the tunnel, I feel that light is an increase in pay for Direct Support Professionals. Getting a pay raise, in my opinion, will reduce the amount of turnover and burn out we have in this field.

I am in this field because I care, not about the money, but about the awesome people I get to come and work with each day. I am passionate about my job. Most people go to their job to get their 40 hour paycheck for the week, I go to work with the challenge of how much can I get done and how much of a difference can I make in this week. I have made a commitment to the person I support 1 on 1: I will see her through and support her in all of her goals she has for the future, and I am genuinely excited to be there by her side, no matter what the sacrifice.

I appreciate this opportunity to be heard and I hope it does not fall on deaf ears. I will leave you with a quote that my family has hanging on a plaque above our door: Tough times don't last, Tough people do.

Deanna Tough
(541) 543 0930
Alvord Taylor

1342 ½ 66th St
Springfield, OR 97478
April 23, 2015

Members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means,

Thank you for coming to Springfield and providing Lane County residents an opportunity to share their concerns and priorities. I presently serve as the Chair of the Lane Area Commission on Transportation – the Lane ACT - established by the Legislature to provide a forum for stakeholders to collaborate on transportation issues affecting Lane County and to strengthen state and local partnerships in transportation. It has become increasingly clear to our stakeholders over the last year that the future of Oregon's transportation system and infrastructure is at an historic crossroads. As fuel efficiency rises and our citizens increasingly opt for alternative modes of transportation, Oregon's gas tax revenues continue to decline while bonded debt service for past infrastructure improvements has grown. Funds available for maintenance have shrunk drastically. As we continue to defer maintenance on our existing infrastructure, it deteriorates exponentially to the point of failure, resulting in an ever increasing cost to Oregon's taxpayers to rebuild and replace it. \$1 of timely maintenance has been calculated by both ODOT and Lane County to save taxpayers anywhere from \$7-\$12 in deferred reconstruction costs. Meanwhile, road construction costs have approximately doubled over the last 20 years. At the present level of maintenance, in the next 20 years we can expect that 2/3 of Oregon's bridges will have deferred rehabilitation needs. The \$2.5 billion spent on bridge reconstruction in Oregon's recent Transportation Investment Act covered only 10% of our bridges. This grim picture becomes even more startling when its accompanying economic impacts are considered. At the present level of available funding for maintenance, ODOT has projected that deteriorating road and bridge conditions will result in increased operating costs, increased congestion and travel time, and load restrictions on most of our important commodity and freight corridors. The economic costs are sobering: potentially 100,000 fewer jobs and \$94 billion in lost GDP over the next 20 years. And these assumptions do not take into account the foregone economic opportunities we will lose because of the disadvantage Oregon will have in recruiting business and investment capital due to our comparatively poor infrastructure

Over the past several months, other ACT Chairs from across the state and I have met with the Oregon Transportation Commission three times in a shared conversation about selecting the least painful path forward, given this hard reality. It has become increasingly clear that the future of the Federal Highway Trust Fund is subject to the same uncertainties. It has also become clear that waiting for a Federal solution to Oregon's problems is a bad strategy that will only increase our costs down the road.

At our last conversation, the OTC asked us to consider a drastic change to the next Statewide Transportation Improvement Program – the 2017-2020 STIP. Typically, a STIP includes two discreet silos of funds – Fix-it, or maintenance projects prioritized by ODOT according to a deterioration scale, and Enhance Projects designed to enhance, expand or improve the transportation system. These are developed and prioritized by communities, regional ACTs and finally the OTC. Enhance projects are a critical component in developing a vision for the future of our communities. They allow communities to modernize infrastructure. They allow smaller, developing communities to learn from the lessons of larger ones and avoid mistakes before they become prohibitively expensive. However important this component may be to the growth of our communities, the OTC asked us to consider abandoning this silo of the STIP, and solely dedicate STIP funds to maintenance. This may be a necessary alternative. But it sends a foreboding message to our citizens and the businesses and investment capital that are presently considering Oregon during this economic expansion.

At the outset of this Legislative Session, while I knew that not every legislator was intimately aware of the magnitude of this problem, I believed the compelling nature of it would win the day. I was apparently wrong. It appears any progress toward a transportation funding package has evaporated. I spent a day in Salem two weeks ago speaking to as many of you as I could and I left very disheartened. “Blame it on the Democrats; blame it on the Republicans” is not a solution. This is a singular moment of opportunity to act. Low fuel prices, a healthy economy, investment dollars trying to find a home in Oregon – what could we be waiting for? Funding infrastructure maintenance and improvement now not only will provide a bigger bang for the buck because of low fuel costs, but it will also create jobs and attract investment that will keep the economy moving when things inevitably slow down in the next few years. If the Legislature fails to fund a transportation package this Session, the consequences will be long lasting, costly and severe. And your failure to act will inevitably mean that you have significantly raised taxes on Oregonians far in excess of what a transportation package today will cost, because we will have to pay for this sooner or later. And later will be much more expensive.

Thank you,

George Grier

A photograph of a couple walking away from the viewer on a sandy beach. In the background, a large, prominent rock formation (Haystack Rock) rises from the water. The sky is a clear, deep blue. The overall mood is serene 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.

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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
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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

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