

My name is Don Bruland and I live in Medford. Prior to my retirement 4 years ago, I served as Director of Senior & Disability Services in Jackson and Josephine Counties for 37 years. Thank you for this opportunity to offer these comments and for your commitment to listen to Oregonians. Today, I am here as an AARP member and volunteer.

It was my privilege to participate in the development of Oregon's home and community based LTC system. A system built on the principal that **seniors deserve to live with independence, choice, and dignity**. Our system has served as a model for the country and enables individuals to safely remain as independent as possible while saving Oregon taxpayers tens of millions of dollars each biennium.

I strongly urge the legislature not to balance the budget on the backs of Oregon's most vulnerable - our seniors and people with physical disabilities — and their caregivers. Oregon's long-term care system is cost-efficient, provides valuable jobs and stimulates local economies.

Cost-efficient. The state pays roughly 30 cents of each dollar to support Medicaid long term care services. The other 70% comes from provider taxes and Federal matching funds. Therefore, every dollar reduced in state investment, eliminates two more dollars from Oregon's economy.

Prevents future costs: Both Medicaid and Oregon Project Independence help people remain in their home. This not only improves their quality of life, it also lowers the cost of care.

Workforce: Oregon's long-term care system employs more than 80,000 workers in every corner of the state. The vast majority of caregivers are women who are supporting their families. Oregon has made a commitment to rising wages that should be honored with a rising investment.

While proposed cuts may appear to help balance the state budget, they are likely to do the exact opposite. As eligibility for services is tightened and hours of services are reduced increasing numbers of individuals will end up requiring more expensive services and in the process their health and security will be placed in jeopardy

AARP supports a **balanced approach** to the State's budget gap, including prioritizing essential services for the most vulnerable Oregonians, **asking corporations to contribute more towards the state's general fund**, and supporting front-line workers who are caring for vulnerable Oregonians and providing for their families.

Thank you for listening today and for your leadership and commitment to Oregon's most vulnerable - our seniors, people with physical disabilities, and their caregivers.

To: The Oregon Joint Committee on Ways and Means
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Room H-178
Salem, OR 97301

Feb. 24, 2017

Re: For Public Testimony at Ashland, Oregon on the State Budget regarding funding/re-filling the Biocontrol Specialist position in the Oregon Dept. of Agriculture, Noxious Weed Program

Oregon has had one of the leading bio-control programs for noxious weeds in the nation. This is due in large part to Eric Coombs who has recently retired. I've been informed that this position may not be re-filled with the proposed budget.

I want you to know that this is a very important program in our fight against noxious/invasive weeds in Oregon and in the nation. I am a recently retired U.S. Forest Service botanist who has worked with noxious weeds for over 20 years. Eric has been very helpful in supplying bio-control agents to noxious weed specialists over the years. These bio-control agents have been rigorously tested to help reduce populations of noxious weeds while protecting our native plants as well as important agriculture plants. This is one of the ways we can decrease noxious weeds and allows us to reduce the use of herbicides, especially for large infestations. This is a program that is very important and I believe should continue.

We've come a long way in working with these species and we need to continue. Please fund this position so we can keep this extremely important program and reduce the impact from noxious/invasive weeds

Thank you,



Barbara Mumblo
4009 Yale Creek Rd.
Jacksonville, OR 97530
bamumblo@gmail.com

To: Oregon Joint Ways and Means Committee
Date: Feb. 24, 2017. At: Roadshow at Ashland

From: Sandra Coyner, 1160 Fern St., Ashland OR 97520. Sandra.coyner@gmail.com

I request that you approve funding for a legislative task force to create a new system for financing Health Care delivery in Oregon, following up the study commissioned last year by the legislature and recently completed by the Rand Corporation.

This expenditure will be small in the current budget. But the upside potential in the near and medium future is huge.

Oregon's overwhelming budget deficit this year includes a gigantic chunk of spending for health care for low-income Oregonians (Medicaid). The state is on the hook for all this money in large part because the system for financing health care is broken. It's inequitable, cumbersome, and too expensive. Oregon is a pioneer in finding ways to lower the cost of health care while maintaining excellent quality. The United States spends far more than other advanced countries on health care, but one third of that expense doesn't go to health care at all—it goes to administration. Let's cut out the fat.

The legislature commissioned and funded the Rand study to begin work on this problem. Full reform is too complex to finish in 2017. But a legislative task force can create a workable plan that can be realized in the next few years. A bill to create the task force is in process for this session and will ask funding for staff costs.

Health Care for All Oregon, a statewide organization of which I am a member, has been researching and advocating for a single-payer system—sometimes known as Medicare for All—an approach that has demonstrated its ability to save money while providing quality health care, mainly by dramatically reducing administrative costs compared to for-profit insurance schemes. The Rand study report validates that a single-payer system reduces administrative costs, includes effective cost controls, and reduces financial barriers to care. Single-payer systems treat health care as a human right, not as a commodity to be sold by manipulating and deceiving consumers in order to make a profit off their misfortunes.

In last November's election, voters in Ashland and elsewhere overwhelmingly supported ballot measures asking the legislature to fix our system of health care financing—87% approval here in Ashland. Municipalities throughout Oregon are considering and passing resolutions echoing the call for action.

The next step is cheap this year—just finance the task force to continue working for what will be optimal for Oregon. The system can be revenue-neutral, requiring no general tax subsidies. And your Ways and Means agonies could be dramatically reduced in future years. Don't stay stuck in the past. Reach for the future. In Oregon, the future should include Medicare-for-All, a cost-efficient way to finance health care for all.

Thank you for the opportunity to give testimony to this committee.

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Thank you for your presence here today.

My name is Kathleen McNeill. I am a retired educator and mental health professional.

It is clear that the current tax structure is not adequate to support the many legitimate needs of the citizens of Oregon as represented here today and on your listening tour.

The Oregon tax structure is inadequate. Income and property taxes put the burden on the individual citizens ^{of OR} and are insufficient to address our needs, build a strong economy and educate our children.

I am aware that the citizens of OR narrowly defeated a measure that would have increased corporate taxes in OR. One of the reasons this measure was defeated was the assertion that increasing corporate taxes would increase the prices of goods and services in the state. Whether this assertion was accurate or not, many voters were deterred from supporting the measure.

There was also concern expressed that the revenue raised would not be used for those priorities such as education,

health care, social services to the vulnerable and public safety. since there was no guarantee of this in the measure.

I would encourage you to consider supporting a bill that would increase ~~in~~ corporate taxes in Oregon and requiring that the additional revenues be guaranteed to be used for the above needs.

I recently read in the Mail Tribune that the current federal administration is planning on reducing federal corporate tax from 35% to 15%. Given this reduction on the federal level, this ~~providing~~ ^{not provides} our legislators with a unique, tremendous opportunity to consider increasing Oregon's corporate tax without the spectre of increased prices on goods & services.

Corporations would be sorely pressed to justify increasing prices when their overall taxes have been decreased overall.

Please act with both courage and compassion to find the revenues needed to fund the many needs of Oregon citizens. Seize the opportunity to increase corporate taxes, rebalance the OR tax structure and build a stronger Oregon.

February 24, 2017

RE: Support for Funding for Seniors and the Disabled

Dear Representative Nathanson, Senator Devlin, and members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means:

It is at times like these that require tough budgetary choices that your willingness to serve as an Oregon legislator is so very appreciated. I applaud the care and transparency with which you are weighing trade offs between programs that support your various constituencies. However, I am concerned at the limited focus on the funding needs of seniors and the disabled. Please consider these points:

- **Support for critical services to seniors and the disabled does not benefit only these groups.** These vulnerable individuals are part of families. Support for them benefits the working adults who serve as their caregivers or care managers. It preserves family's assets that could be used for the younger generations within these families.
- **Appropriate program support has a positive impact on the revenue side of Oregon finances.** It helps family caregivers continue to work at a level that optimizes their taxable income and their productivity; the latter has a trickle-down impact on the taxable income of their employers.
- **Appropriate funding will maintain and could even improve the cost-effective structure of Oregon's long-term care programs** at a time when the demand for long-term care services is increased by aging baby boomers. Cuts now to programs like Oregon Project Independence will only increase costs later. Seniors and the disabled who are not adequately supported, who are not well-informed by ADRC options counselors, and who are not competently managed by paid case managers or trained family caregivers will become high utilizers of more expensive services and residential care options.
- **What you decide will likely affect you personally**, either because you have or will have a loved one who is one of these vulnerable individuals, or because you yourself will need the services under consideration. What would *you* want?

Thank you for your service to Oregonians.

Sincerely,



Anne Bellegia

The comments above are my own, as a 67-year old Oregon resident who is informed by my current participation on Rogue Valley Council of Governments Senior Advisory Council and as a community relations volunteer for the 1,750-member Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Southern Oregon University; by my former participation on the Senate Bill 21 Steering Committee on LTC 3.0, COHO (Choosing Options, Honoring Options), and Asante Ashland Hospital Hospice; and by a 40-year career as a senior-level marketing executive in the pharmaceutical/medical products industry. I am not a spokesperson for any of the organizations mentioned.

Southern Oregon University



Feb 24, 2017

Thank you citizen legislators for meeting with Southern Oregonians today. My name is Wes Brain, and I am with Health Care for All Oregon. HCAO is a statewide campaign to bring comprehensive, high-quality health care to all. In our state we do things the Oregon way and this includes the expansion of Medicaid which has been successfully moving us in the right direction. Now is not the time to turn away from our success, in fact we need to increase our efforts to improve the lives of so many people. Your committee has the tough job of measuring everything in dollars and cents, and so I submit to you that making Oregon healthy has its largest value in quality of life terms which never are seen on an accounting balance sheet.

So how are we going to pay to expand healthcare in Oregon?

We are 50th in the nation in corporate taxes and lawmakers have a choice to make. That's right. Because of the way our tax system is structured, Oregon ranks dead last in corporate taxes in the country when all fees and taxes are factored in. So the choice is this: either keep us at the bottom for business taxes or ask corporations to pay more in taxes and finally invest their fair share in Oregon's services.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward Wesley "Wes" Brain
298 Garfield Street
Ashland, Oregon 97520

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Edward Wesley Brain". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name.

^{Devin,}
Chair ~~222~~, Senator DeBoer, Senators and Representatives.....

Thank you for providing this opportunity for people to provide input into the budget priorities around the state. I am the Chair of the Medford School ~~District~~ ^{Board}, and speak tonight on behalf of the Medford School Board.

A former school board member advised me during my campaign that school boards are like soap operas....the actors change but the story is always the same....where to cut.

And here we are again on the budget roller coaster.

Oregon's overreliance on the volatile personal income tax, coupled with the insane Kicker law, means inadequate reserves, and unstable funding for basics like education and healthcare.

I know many of you did not support Measure 97, including Senator DeBoer, but I also heard that if 97 did not pass that you would come to the table with a balanced tax reform proposal. Where is the Grand Bargain we were promised?

Medford SD has made some amazing progress the past few years...graduation rates are up 12%, and so are SBAC results across the board. The gains in student populations including economically disadvantaged, Hispanic, SPED, and Limited English Proficiency outpaced the gains elsewhere in the District and the achievement gap is closing.

There isn't one single solution for closing the gap and boosting graduation rates, or Oregon would have mandated it by now. The District invested in programs that engage students in school like elementary music and pe and academic/career pathways in secondary. We made a deliberate move to lower class sizes below the statewide average (albeit the second highest in the nation) for the first time in a decade. We stepped up mentoring programs like Check and Connect and wrap around services like Maslow and the Big Idea. And we implemented strategies and invested in programs that ensure kids attend school, pass their classes, and are on track to graduate starting in 9th grade. The District "Freshman On Track to Graduate" increased from 71% in 2014 to 83% in 2016.

Now we are facing a \$3million budget deficit, based on the \$7.8billion the legislature has proposed for K-12. Which programs do you think we should cut: PE and Music in Elementary? Secondary Pathways? Mentoring programs? We would have to cut all that AND raise class sizes to close a \$3 million gap.

Many of the intervention programs MSD successfully employed could be expanded with full funding of Measure 98. The proposed budget of \$7.8 Billion, plus the delay in funding M98 means the district cannot expand the best practices discussed above that have worked so well, but we now have to look at cutting them.

The legislature set a high bar for 100% graduation rate by 2025. Our Board has adopted goals of 80% in 2017, and 90% in 2020 and we believe we were well on our way to achieving those goals..but only if we can rely on stable and adequate funding.

Karen Starchvick
Board Chair
MSD 549 C

RR Room Stevenson Union



Phoenix-Talent Schools

Excellence For Everyone

The Public Schools of Phoenix-Talent
FY 2017-2018 Budget Message to Ways and Means Committee
February 24, 2017

“Kasserian Ingera,” a greeting used by the Masai tribe of Africa is roughly translated to mean “And how are the children?” This is going to be a tough one to answer next year in this district if the K-12 budget is set at 7.8 billion.

Outlined in this message, you will begin to see, what this means for the schools in Phoenix-Talent. Below, is the amount we estimate that will be needed to cut in order to balance our budget, and examples of what that amount represents in available options we have to reduce our budget. Naturally some combination of options will be necessary to limit the impact of the cuts.

One more note, the district recognizes that we have experienced a slow decline in our enrollment for the last few years. This too has an impact on the budget. We understand this and know that an adjustment of approximately \$350,000 (loss of 35-45 students) will be needed regardless of the final level of funding.

I) Calculation of shortfall--\$7.8 Billion Dollar Budget

- A) To start, we estimate the shortfall amount to be \$2.2 million.
- B) We are currently estimating an ending fund balance of \$700,000. This amount will be used first to offset the deficit.
- C) We don't have any reserve accounts to access due to depleting those funds (\$2 million) over two years 2011-2013 so there aren't any available to help offset the shortfall.
- D) The amount we already needed to adjust based on a decline in enrollment \$350,000 (this worsens in the second year of the biennium) is subtracted from this projection.
- E) Total estimated shortfall excluding the amount needed to be cut already for declining enrollment is approximately \$1.1 million.

II) Cuts that would need to be made individually to staff or programing

- A) 17 teaching staff would need to be cut. This would increase class sizes from an average of 25 to 33.
- B) 15 days of school would need to be cut.
- C) 34 non-teaching staff would need to be cut
- D) 11 administrative staff (all of them) would need to be cut.

III) Other options that could be used in combination to reduce the numbers above (total about \$250,000 each)

- A) Delaying curriculum and technology purchasing.
- B) Cuts to programming which might include sports, music, physical education, extra-curricular programs, field trips, and elective programs at the high school level.
- C) A 40% reduction to all supply and maintenance budgets.

This budget proposal will cause us to lose the gradual restoration (last two years) of the things we lost during The Great Recession and moves us back to a dark time in our history. We are saddened to be facing the same types of cuts we made just four years ago.

Teresa Sayre
Brent Barry



3630 Aviation Way
P.O. Box 4666
Medford, OR 97501

Sen. Richard Devlin, Co-Chair
Joint Ways and Means Committee
900 Court St. NE, S-213
Salem, Oregon 97301

Rep. Nancy Nathanson, Co-Chair
Joint Way and Means Committee
900 Court St. NE, H-276
Salem, Oregon 97301

Sen. Elizabeth Steiner Hayward, Co-Chair
Human Services Subcommittee
900 Court St. NE, S-215
Salem, Oregon 97301

Rep. Rayfield, Co-Chair
Human Services Subcommittee
900 Court St. NE, H-375
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Co-Chairs Devlin, Nathanson, Steiner Hayward, and Rayfield:

We ask you to invest \$4 million in the Oregon Hunger Response Fund in the 2017-19 Department of Human Services budget. This important fund helps Oregon's 20 regional food banks acquire and distribute food to over 950 local agencies across the Oregon helping families during times of economic hardship and communities struck by natural disasters. ACCESS supports this request as a necessary measure to help stop the rise of hunger in Oregon.

The Oregon Hunger Response Fund is the state government's sole food assistance program not connected to a federal program like SNAP, WIC or Farm Direct Nutrition. While federal food programs play a huge role in Oregon, they are clearly not enough to stop Oregon from being the only state in the nation to see a rise in hunger. USDA released its Food Security Report this summer showing a statistically significant increase in Oregon's hunger rate on a three year average.

Oregon has a hunger crisis. We are the only state in the nation that experienced an increase in its hunger rate in the last three years based on the recently released report. The number of people and the volume of food distributed in Oregon's food bank network has remained at recession levels unbeknownst to the public. Many including private donors assume that hunger has decreased. Food is the cornerstone to good health, educational success, and a productive labor force. It is a basic human need just like housing.

For too long, Oregon families have struggled to know when and where their next meal will come from. This is very troubling especially given that the nation has recovered from the Great Recession. Over 600,000 Oregonians are food insecure with single-mothers and their children most at risk, especially in rural Oregon and communities of color. Nearly 300,000 Oregonians each month access food services through the Oregon Food Bank Network.

Food is the cornerstone to good health, educational success, and a productive labor force. It is a basic human need just like housing.

Oregon's network of regional food banks is a partnership, supported by private and public sectors with community and faith based organizations and an army of volunteers. The Oregon Hunger Response Fund is the state's contribution to this effort. The Fund is critical to helping the Oregon Food Bank Network get food to ACCESS so that we can serve families in communities such as Jackson County.

Please join ACCESS and the Oregon Food Bank Network in the fight against hunger in our state. With a strong investment in the Oregon Hunger Response Fund, we can end hunger in Oregon.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Philip Yates".

Philip Yates, Director
ACCESS Nutrition Programs' 541-774-4320

cc The Honorable Tina Kotek, Speaker of the Oregon House of Representatives
 The Honorable Peter Courtney, Senate President
 Sen. Jeff Kruse
 Sen. Herman Baertschiger, Jr.
 Sen. Alan DeBoer
 Rep. Dallas Heard
 Rep. Duane Stark
 Rep. Pam Marsh
 Rep. Sal Esquivel



Helping People Help Themselves

3630 Aviation Way
PO Box 4666
Medford, OR 97501

The Honorable Richard Devlin
Co-Chair, Joint Ways & Means Committee
900 Court St NE S-213
Salem, OR 97301

The Honorable Nancy Nathanson
Co-Chair, Joint Ways & Means Committee
900 Court St NE H-276
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Co-Chair Devlin and Nathanson,

I am writing this letter to urge you to reinstate funding for affordable housing in our State including funding for the Oregon Foreclosure Avoidance program. ACCESS is the designated Community Action Agency for Jackson County. ACCESS provides multiple programs and services to economically disadvantaged citizens of our community.

ACCESS has had the opportunity to administer the OFA program for 4 counties in Southern Oregon; Jackson, Josephine, Klamath, and Lake Counties. This funding has served 386 households with 87% achieving a successful resolution. As you may know, Jackson and Josephine Counties are considered some of the "hardest hit" areas in the State concerning foreclosure and the housing crisis. Jackson County has a poverty rate of 19.3% and Josephine County a poverty rate of 21.9%. We believe that everyone in our community, and throughout the state, should have access to safe, stable, and affordable housing, and as a prevention of homelessness and poverty.

Our community is still facing a housing crisis. We continue to face extremely low vacancy rates as well as high real estate prices coupled with low inventory. ACCESS sees this need on a daily basis, whether it is people facing foreclosure, needing mortgage payment assistance, rental assistance, or just searching for an affordable unit to rent. We can prevent people from losing their homes through foreclosure counseling. Please fund the Oregon Foreclosure Avoidance program and other affordable housing initiatives.

We can do more to ensure all Oregonians have a safe, stable place to call home but we cannot do it if we do not have the sufficient funding to help keep our community safe. Help us do our jobs to meet the need.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Joe Vollmar
Housing Director
ACCESS

February 24, 2017

Re: State of Oregon Budget Hearing
Southern Oregon University, Ashland, OR

The Joint Committee On Ways and Means, the legislature's budget-writing committee, is seeking input on ways to bridge a roughly \$1.8 billion shortfall in the upcoming budget cycle.

The proposed budget framework states that existing revenues are \$1.8 Billion short of what is needed to fund state services at current levels for the next biennium, despite the fact that our state has more revenue than it ever has before. No matter how much revenue you raise, there will never be enough, because you have no desire to balance the expenditures to the income and make the necessary cuts.

There is a new dynamic that has come out of the recent elections will translate into having a wide variety of people coming to the budget hearings. We all have strong opinions on issues ranging from health care, police support, infrastructure, education, workplace benefits, corporate taxes and the prison system. All of these issues are being impacted by the failure to work on solutions to the continuing problem of over promising to PERS recipients.

By your own words, we are to examine agency budgets within the bounds of current revenues, we can accomplish a few key objectives. First, it ensures that you can fulfill your constitutional obligation to balance the budget. Second, it allows you to scrutinize budgets for savings in order to spread the dollars further. Third, we believe that legislators, stakeholders, and the public need to wrestle with the difficult choices that our current resources create.

Oregonians-both the voters and elected officials-have made choices that impact our current budget realities. Nothing is free, someone has to pay for expanded services in extending health care, criminal justice reform, pension adjustments or paying for education and the list goes on.

You believe additional resources will be needed to provide the programs and services Oregonians expect and deserve, and you also say that the state's bank account does not have the new revenue assumed in the Governor's budget, then change the Governor's budget. There was an article yesterday in the Mail Tribune on the front page that said "Revenue Expected To Rise," projections say by as much as \$103 million from its December quarterly forecast and \$2 billion more than two years ago. General fund revenues for the 2015-2017 biennium are now expected to grow by another \$113 million during the present session.

I agree with Representative Duane Star, R-Grants Pass, Oregon does not have a revenue problem, Oregon has a spending problem. We expect the same reasoning in balancing the budget.

Dear Legislators,

I am an Ashland resident and a registered voter. I rarely contact my elected representatives but I feel very strongly about climate related issues.

I am writing to you now to ask that you do whatever you can to protect future generations of Oregonians, citizens of the world and the biodiversity of the planet. I urge you to work with your fellow legislators to take whatever steps possible to reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases within the state to levels comparable to the targets proposed in the Paris Agreement.

As you may know, bills are being developed that:

- a. provide utility bill support for low income workers,
- b. assign revenue to rural districts,
- c. target support to disadvantaged (especially rural) and vulnerable communities,
- d. provide transition funds for dislocated workers.

Since the U.S. Federal Government is failing to take appropriate steps to achieve the Paris Agreement goals, it is necessary for the states to take on this responsibility ourselves.

But more important than the specific details, I truly believe that supporting climate change bills is the most important agenda item that state and federal legislators can address.

No other decisions matter if we lose the climate battle.

I urge you to do whatever you can to maintain Oregon's historic leadership in protecting the environment. Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kim Miller". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Kim Miller
147 Mountain View Drive
Ashland, Oregon 97520

Joan Kalvelage, PhD
810 Faith Avenue
Ashland, Oregon 97520
February 20, 2017

Dear Committee Members:

First I want to thank you for your service as Oregon legislators. Although I cannot match your hours of service, I too take seriously the responsibilities and opportunities of citizenship—as a donor, a volunteer, a community organizer and a voter. Although I recognize the importance of the many bills and challenges coming before you in this session, **I am most motivated by the urgent need for adequate climate care.**

Two of my sons are organic farmers in Southern Oregon. They (and all of their friends whose livelihoods are in agriculture) share deep concern about climate change—including impact on traditional crops, loss of soil moisture, dropping of the water table. Their children, my young grandchildren, improvise ceremonies to “help mother earth.” But then they shrug and say, “This won’t be enough.” Already they know that they need adults to actually enforce greenhouse emission standards set by Oregon legislators long before the Paris Climate Agreement. I myself can no longer plan to spend summers in Ashland because drought-driven wildfires make managing my asthma impossible. I wonder how many eco-tourists and patrons of the Oregon Shakespeare Festival will also decide to stay away as they discover the truth in scientists’ predictions of more frequent and bigger wildfires impacting Oregon. As a psychotherapist in private practice, I am surprised that for the first time most of my clients spend session time wanting to talk about their emotional turmoil now that they cannot count on the federal government to protect our economy and our environment. They too are turning to you for leadership.

These are just personal snapshots. They are not the primary reasons why I am writing you. **Climate care is not the only big challenge that we cannot help but pass on to future generations. But it is the only challenge that may not come with a salvageable remnant of the opportunity now in our hands.** What we will do—or fail to do—with that opportunity? That is the question by which future generations will judge us.

I have read the scientific data about the probability of accelerating climate change if we continue to rely only on voluntary efforts to change or slow the trend. Our neighboring states—California and Washington—have joined nine NE states in clearly showing the efficacy of a bill like SB577—a bill that could actually limit greenhouse emission while creating clean jobs and revenue much needed in Oregon. As the same data will be presented to you in other testimony, I will not repeat the details here. **I implore you to pass SB 577 and to also extend the tax breaks of Oregonians investing in solar power.**

Thank for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Joan Kalvelage, PhD

John B. Tyler
1565 Oregon Street, #107
Ashland OR 97520
541-631-8375
johnbbtyler.ashland@gmail.com

Testimony for Oregon House Ways and Means Committee – Feb. 24, 2017

I am a retired senior living on Social Security and Medicare. I depend entirely on Medicare for all my medical needs. I would be in desperate financial shape without it.

The Affordable Care Act was a first step toward providing comprehensive affordable medical care to everyone. The future of the ACA is in doubt at this moment. There are constant threats to reduce or eliminate Medicare. It is time for Oregon to take the steps necessary to afford medical care to all Oregon residents without regard to what is done in Washington.

The 2015 Legislature provided \$400,000 to fund a study to determine how best to provide this comprehensive, affordable quality medical care to all Oregon residents. That study has been completed. It is time for the Legislature to take action.

Affordable medical care for all is within reach. We can eliminate 30% of the current costs by taking care out of the hands of insurance companies. We can save substantial additional amounts by relieving medical providers of the burden of office administrative staff to process insurance claims. We can create a system where everyone has medical care regardless of where they work. We can save employers administrative costs and increasingly expensive medical premiums. We can design a medical provider system where all the money spent goes for medical care.

A few other states have taken steps toward achieving this goal. Most other developed countries in the western world provide inexpensive and effective medical care for their citizens. It is now Oregon's turn to step into the world of 21st century health care for all Oregonians. Please create a Task Force dedicated to creating an affordable, comprehensive, equitable and high quality system of healthcare for all residents of Oregon.

Thank you

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John B. Tyler". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" being the most prominent.

John B. Tyler

Testimony before the Ways and Means Committee 2/24/17

Carol Conlon

106 NW F St, Apt. A

Grants Pass, OR 97526

Tel: 541-218-8063

Good Evening,

My name is Carol Conlon. I am the mother of an adult with Intellectual and developmental disabilities and an advocate for the disabled.

After over 15 years of caring for an adult with IDD, I began encountering families with similar challenges.

I began learning to navigate the system both for my son, as well as for some of these families and the people they care for. Now I act as an informal advocate for families in the area.

In working with these families, I have seen how essential services are in maintaining their loved ones quality of life and meeting their daily needs.

One woman I have advocated for, cares for her disabled adult son in her home. Her whole life has been geared towards keeping him at home where he thrives. Because his needs are so extreme, this program of in-home support saves the state hundreds of thousands of dollars a year by keeping him out of a facility. This mother is convinced that if he was not able to receive care at home, not only would his quality of life be greatly diminished, but he would not physically survive. Because he is non-verbal he relies on his mom and his trained in-home caregivers to understand his gestures and sounds.

Cutting funding to long term care services for in-home supports will harm the most fragile people in our community and will end up creating negative outcomes such as higher-cost placement in group homes, nursing homes, and unnecessary hospitalizations.

At a time of record corporate profits, it is a travesty that we are even considering cutting services to the most vulnerable members of our communities. Please increase revenues instead of implementing cuts, especially when we are at a time of record corporate profits.

Thank You

My name is Dylann Loverro. I am currently a freshman at Southern Oregon University. I am a political science and international studies double major in the Honors College. ~~I serve on the Area Council for Shasta residence hall, and I am also a member of Southern Oregon University's Leadership Fellows program.~~ I am here today to ask you to increase funding to public universities in Oregon State.

I am fortunate enough to come from a family of scholars. My grandfather was a public school art teacher and my grandmother was an English teacher. Together they served the San Diego public school system for over 30 years. My mother and father are employed by Central Washington University as professors in the Psychology department and Education departments respectively. ~~My mother works specifically with adults with autism and my father is the chair of the education foundation department, training the next generation of public school teachers in the Pacific Northwest.~~ I am not the first

person in my family to go to college by any means. My parents began saving money to pay for my college tuition before I was even born. When my grandmother passed away she specified that the money she left behind was to help pay for my brother and I to go to college. After saving money for 18 years I was able to afford the first term and a half of college without taking out student loans. I was only able to do this because I received some substantial scholarships. Without those scholarships I would only have been able to pay for the first term.

My family is a family of public educators. ~~Teachers aren't paid well, it is not a secret.~~ We are not rich people. I was part of the public school system in my town for thirteen years, and now I am seeking an education at a public university. For the first time, my family is not sure if I will be able to obtain a degree without incurring enormous debt. ~~The night I finalized my application to Southern Oregon University my dad sent in the last check to finish paying off his student loans.~~

We have to recognize that seeking an education is not a selfish act. Investing in education is investing in the next generation. ~~It is putting hope in your children. At the end of the day I believe that the children are our future, not corporations or trade agreements. You all sought education at one point in your lives. Education betters our society, it creates an atmosphere is ingenuity and resourcefulness within communities.~~ Today, the 'pull yourself up by your bootstraps' mentality has become less about elbow grease and is about bettering your mind through education. ^{And} As I learned in my science classes, pulling yourself up by your bootstraps is not possible because that's not how physics works.

Education is treated as a necessity while priced as a luxury. When a worker is unable to afford what they are producing there is a problem. Why is it that after saving for 18 ^{almost}

^{20 years} ~~years~~ two college professors are unsure if they can send ^{their} ~~two~~ children to a ^{college} ~~university~~ for eight years? Something is wrong in

this equation. We have to change this path we are on because if we don't there will be serious consequences.

Thank you for your time.

SOU 2017 Ways and Means Public Testimony

Friday, February 24, 2017

Cindy Bernard: Ashland Chamber of Commerce Legislative Chair
Past President

- The Ashland Chamber represents 700 businesses in Ashland and around the valley. The Chamber has been deeply connected, supportive and involved as a strong community partner recognizing the economic importance of SOU for over a century.
- Southern Oregon University is Ashland's largest employer and critical driver of our economy
- For example, in 2014 SOU's direct spending in rural Jackson and Josephine counties totaled \$95.5 million
- For every dollar SOU causes to be spent in Southern Oregon \$2.05 is created in the region's gross domestic product
- In addition to having an economic multiplier effect, SOU has exceptional faculty providing quality and innovative experiences educating our future employees, business and community leaders
- A recent survey shows that 85% of students were employed within a year of graduation, 70% of those were working in Oregon and 2/3 were employed in Jackson or Josephine counties.
- Based on average earnings for the two groups, SOU graduates created a local annual impact of \$26 million more than their peers with a high school education.
- Likewise, the reverse is true, decreasing in state funding results in increases in tuition and thus increases in student loans- those graduates have less disposable income to spend in their local economies, which means less revenue generated for the local economies and thus less state revenues.
- What I am trying to say is that the investment in higher education is not one of expenditure, but of a generator with both immediate and long term ROI. As a business member, I know fiscal responsibility and in tough times with tough choices it is time to double down on the income generators. SOU is an economic, social and professional multiplier I believe deserves full funding of the Public University Support Fund, Sports lottery and Oregon Opportunity Grant.

Thank You,
Cindy Bernard

Rogue Community College Legislative Priorities



Enhance Community College Support to Help Us Meet Our Needs in Southern Oregon

- Community colleges need at least \$634 million to maintain current services and pay for increased costs of PERS, health care, minimum wage increases, and other cost drivers.
- The co-chairs budget will result in a \$1.9 million decrease to RCC. We will have no choice but to make drastic cuts AND raise tuition.
- These cuts will include not only instructional programs but also student support services that aid in retention and success.
- 82% of RCC first-time full-time students receive financial aid. College affordability is the primary challenge to our students' successful completion.
- Tuition in Oregon community colleges ranks second highest in the western states.
- On average 30% of children in the Rogue Valley live in poverty and education is the pathway to breaking this cycle.
- While much of Oregon has recovered from the Great Recession, Rogue Valley unemployment rates are consistently 2-3% higher than the state average.
- Oregon ranks 47th in the U.S. for its investment in higher education despite adopting educational attainment targets.

About RCC



RCC students succeed

For 10 years running, RCC students who transfer to universities earn higher GPAs than transfer students from any other Oregon community college.

Students who start at RCC and transfer to a university have higher graduation rates than students who start at the university.

All 31 nursing graduates in 2016 passed their Board Exam on the first try. That's why health care providers look to hire RCC graduates.

The graduates of the 2015 nursing program had a 100 percent employment rate in the first six months.

100 percent of the 2016 graduates of the electronics program passed their certification exam on the first try.

RCC has many options for people to find their paths

- Over 80 degree and certificate programs.
- Two-year transfer degree and dual enrollment options tied directly to Oregon universities.
- An online Associate of Arts Oregon Transfer degree.
- 12 Allied Health programs with completion in one year or less and an average starting wage of \$16 an hour.
- A robust EMS and Fire Science program.
- Excellent options in diesel mechanics, automotive, welding and more.
- Over 10 manufacturing programs leading directly into local, high-paying jobs.
- College classes for high school students at their schools and at our college campuses.

See all of our programs at www.roguecc.edu.

February 24, 2017 - Ways & Means Roadshow, Ashland, OR - DSP Wages

I wish to speak for those who cannot speak for themselves - the developmentally disabled, a group that includes my 69-year-old brother, Billy.

Billy lives in a group home with four others, under the auspices of Ashland Supportive Housing. He was born deaf as well as intellectually disabled. He's never spoken nor heard human speech. He understands very few ALS signs and has never been able to express his own needs. And so he needs others to care and speak for him. Today he is wheelchair bound due to severe, inoperable osteoarthritis. He is probably in chronic pain although he doesn't know how to report that for himself.

I'm also here today to speak for his day-to-day caregivers, DSPs. You all know of the statewide DSP staffing crisis. These incredible and dedicated people are paid so little that they cannot realistically raise families on the low wages they are paid. The result is chronic high turnover.

How does their leaving impact Billy? He wakes up one morning and the person he's come to rely on for his most intimate and all-encompassing care has disappeared. There is no explaining this to him; he can't hear or understand. Suddenly, the person who helps him get up each morning, use the toilet, take his shower, shave and dress is no longer there. That person who fixes his meals and makes sure he doesn't choke while eating them has vanished. Just last week, one of his caregivers saved his life by knowing exactly what to do when he choked on his food.

In all his 69-years of life, the people he depends on and loves the most disappear. Imagine living with that. When it happens, he embarks on an all-consuming obsessive compulsive behavior spree. He checks and rechecks everything and everyone to be sure they're all in their place. His world feels out of control. He is frightened.

I beg you today to pay these very skilled and devoted caregivers a living wage, for the sake of my brother and all those living with these disabilities.

Thank you,

Nancy Parker, sister and guardian for Billy & A.S.H. Board Member
Ashland, Oregon
naparker@mind.net
(541) 951-1129



Billy - He's good at jigsaw puzzles!



Oregon ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS DIRECTORS

OACCD
Executive Board
Members

Steve Berger
OACCD President,
Washington County
Community Corrections

Jeff Wood
OACCD Vice President,
Marion County
Community Corrections

Kiki Parker-Rose
OACCD Secretary,
Klamath County
Community Corrections

Ted Smietana
OACCD Treasurer,
Yamhill County
Community Justice

Chris Hoy
OACCD Past President,
Clackamas County
Community Corrections

*Committed To, And
Value, Offender
Reformation,
Services to Victims,
Crime Prevention,
And Community
Restoration*

www.oaccd.net

GOVERNORS BALANCED BUDGET TRIGGERS COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS OPT-OUT

Oregon Legislative Assembly's budget-writing Joint Ways and Means Committee, my name is Kiki Parker-Rose and I am the Director of Klamath County Community Corrections. I am here today to speak on behalf of the Oregon Association of Community Corrections Directors (OACCD). Thank you for the opportunity to meet with you today.

I wish to relay the success of SB1145, created during the 1995 Legislative Session, as evidenced statewide in many ways through effective local programs, cost effective interventions, and sanctions. The community corrections system that has grown as a result of SB 1145 has two critical benefits for the state. First, our system improves public safety by lowering recidivism, which means fewer victims of crime in our communities. Second, we save taxpayers money both through improved public safety outcomes, and cost avoidance: Oregon's Community Corrections system reduces our use of more expensive prison and jails, reserving prison for the most serious offenders, while still keeping the community safe.

The Governors Balanced Budget does not provide current service level funding for community corrections and triggers the opt-out clause within SB 1145.

Today I am asking you to fully fund of Community Corrections because of our public safety track record, and remind the committee, we are one of the few systems you can support that we know will save the state money in these budget strained times. We also ask you to consider the unintended consequences and costs associated with a funding reduction in triggering Opt-Out discussions in counties across the state.

Community Corrections Funding:

- The \$239 million allocated in Governor's proposed budget for Community Corrections 1145 funding triggers the Opt-Out.
- \$272 million required to avoid the Opt-Out based upon October forecast.
- Proposed budget and workload reductions would directly impact positions, services, and programming provided by Community Correction departments across the State.
 - Would reduce the number of people receiving community supervision and wraparound services.

150 N First Ave Suite 200
Hillsboro, Oregon 97124
(503) 846-3703

Steve Berger Steven_Berger@co.washington.or.us



Oregon ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS DIRECTORS

Justice Reinvestment Initiative: Continue Funding

- Since 2014, around the State Community Corrections agencies have been working with public safety partners to invest Justice Reinvestment dollars into programs to keep people out of prison. Services include:
 - Supervision
 - Drug and alcohol treatment
 - Mental health services
 - Housing
 - Educational assistance
 - Employment training
 - Mentoring
 - Parenting
- JRI represents a renewed commitment that had been absent for years. For some counties, JRI money has meant the opportunity to reinvest in programs that had been cut due to years of budget shortfalls.
- Despite receiving less than was asked for during the last legislative session, JRI has reduced use of prisons.
- Results are showing JRI works:
 - A statewide analysis done in 2015 shows that from December 2013 to December 2015 ninety-five percent (95%) of Short Term Transitional Leave (STTL) were successfully completed.
 - An outcomes report completed by Multnomah County in November 2016 showed that offenders on supervision in that county's Justice Reinvestment program had similar or better recidivism rates than offenders in the pre-Justice Reinvestment comparison group.
- JRI has proven to be the most successful in the counties where the public safety partners, including victims' advocates and the business community, have come together and agreed on programs and plans, providing opportunities for a new way of doing business where public safety partners, come together to collaborate.

*150 N First Ave Suite 200
Hillsboro, Oregon 97124
(503) 846-3703*

Steve Berger Steven_Berger@co.washington.or.us



Oregon ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS DIRECTORS

- Partners are working in new ways to bring important programs and services together to create a comprehensive system that will increase public safety, reduce future victimization, and save taxpayer dollars.
- While the women's population is increasing and causing a conversation about the need to open OSP, several counties are able to work together as a result of JRI to find alternatives to placement in their counties to prevent OSP from having to house women. Before JRI, this collaboration would have been more difficult.

*150 N First Ave Suite 200
Hillsboro, Oregon 97124
(503) 846-3703*

Steve Berger Steven_Berger@co.washington.or.us

clin Raelle Kaia, a mental health counselor with Jackson County Health and Human Services. I provide psychotherapy to OHP/Medicaid patients in Jackson County who suffer from mental health disorders. I'm here to demand no more cuts to mental health treatment in Oregon. Every day I see the impact of funding being ripped away from my clients - as they burst into tears, ^{attacks} fight off panic and retraumatization ~~when they learn they will~~ due to the prospect of losing their mental health care.

Oregon Health Authority is currently allowing AllCare, a for-profit CCO, to withdraw from its duty to provide continuous mental health services to their members in Jackson County. AllCare is walking away with 13 million dollars in private profits that came from taxpayer money, slated to fund critical services.

Because of the actions of AllCare and the Oregon Health Authority, my workplace, Jackson County Health and Human Services, will be forced to lay off 200 mental health workers, which is not only a blow to our local economy and tax base, but will leave thousands of vulnerable OHP members without access to mental health care. This reckless course of action will snowball throughout the community, with devastating consequences - increased rates of substance abuse, joblessness, crimes and arrests, domestic & child abuse, homelessness, hospitalizations, and suicides.

Oregon Health Authority is allowing AllCare to convert what funding we do have into private profits, leaving Oregon families stranded without mental health care. This graft and corruption must stop. In addition, the State of Oregon must meet its funding obligations by requiring Oregon corporations to pay their fair share of taxes. It's time to make a choice between the private bank accounts of unaccountable

corporate board members, and the health and wellbeing of our communities and regular Oregonians.

- Raelle Kaia -
541-631-0016
raellekaia@gmail.com
Bhland Oregon

**Southern Oregon Research and Extension (SOREC) Legislative Testimony
2.24.2017**

Thank you, Legislators, for coming to southern Oregon and listening to our concerns. My name is **Kevin Talbert** I live in rural Jackson County.

I am here to advocate for the **OSU Statewide Public Service Programs**: Extension Service, Agricultural Experiment Station and Forest Research Laboratory. Specifically, I am asking for your **support for SB 805**.

Besides essential services to important southern Oregon industries like **forest products, pears and viticulture**, our local extension serves **small woodlot owners**, youth leadership development with programs like **4-H, public health & food safety**, and much more. Helping to cope with **water issues, invasive species, and promoting small farms** are just a few of the essential services. OSU programs are an **essential part of our regional economic development**.

As a rural Jackson County resident, I have personally benefitted from **the Master Gardener and Land Steward programs**. Like so many others, among other things I learned to create defensible fire spaces for my property and how to grow sustainable grow healthy food. And now, like so many others, I volunteer my time using the skills the Extension help provide. **OSU statewide programs leverage the investment you make in our region**.

I well understand that the Legislature is faced with many **conflicting demands**, but I urge you to find a way to **restore funding for Statewide Public Service programs by passing SB 805**. If Oregon is to address the **growing economic disparity between urban and rural Oregon**, there is no better investment the this for making sure we **strengthen our more rural economy**.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kervin Talbert
1291 n Valley View Rd
Ashland, Oregon, 97520
talbertks@gmail.com 541 944-6374

2/24/2017

I will start by adding my voice to those who thank this committee for the opportunity for us to weigh in on state-wide issues closer to home. I'm the proud mom of two adult children who have Autism. As a single mom, we nearly always lived at the poverty level, and we lived well, because we usually had everything we needed. But, when times were tough, and living within our means meant doing without basic necessities, I did what good parents do- I added to my "means" by getting a second job. ** Their father was, ~~also~~ and still is a great support, as his business R/C airplane allows.*

Rogue River School District served my children very well, and I am returning their investment by serving on the school board, which I've done since July of 2001. I'm also an education employee- I work for the Southern Oregon ESD in STEPS classes, right now I'm serving medically fragile students at Crater High School. I am a member of both the OSBA and the OSEA, which adds another dimension to my perspective.

So I've been coming to these meetings for almost 16 years now, and I want to tell you that school boards do not waste money, and so-called "greedy" employees *unions* don't suck a district dry of funds, either. But I keep hearing that we need to live within our means. The problem is, like my own financial struggles, that the means are simply inadequate to fulfil the basic needs of a good educational system, let alone a great one. The Quality Education Model proved that decades ago.

My request of you is that you look seriously at ways to get that "second job," *on and* add sources of revenue, for Oregon. Public and human services struggle every year to make difficult choices as funding is unreliable and simply not enough. I am not naïve enough to think the solution will be so simple, and I admire that each of you has accepted the task of finding that solution by serving in our Legislature.

Please be bold, find the solution to provide funding for a great educational system, and secure a brighter future for all of Oregon

Thank you again,

Trayce Jensen

Trayce Jensen

Please feel free to contact me via email or phone; I would be glad to share my experiences and view point personally:

541-326-7192

Traycej2010@hotmail.com