

[March 21, 2019]

Thank you for your service! And thank you for this opportunity.

My name is Drew Henrie-McWilliams, I work at Morrison Child and Family Services and have done so for 21 years.

My testimony theme is: One in Five! One in five people in this country, and also in Oregon have a mental health and/or substance use disorder.

I come to you today speaking in collaboration with dozens of other community mental health and substance use disorder providers. While these services are referred to as "Behavioral Health," we are mental health, emotional health, related physical health, the health of one's spirituality, and so on. How we "behave" in relationship to the effects of these aspects, including traumatic events in our lives, is just one component of being a whole human being. Would fellow providers wave a hand or two that are here tonight! Thank you! We are made up of large and small, culturally specific, treatment and prevention organizations. We are the ones who help those regardless of where they are, who they are, and what they're going through day in and day out!

Even when someone is truly suffering - suffering from what they might describe as feeling utter worthlessness, this too is a mental health, emotional health, and all too often a substance use health set of issues. So many of these health issues can be described as what our brains do to us when they're out of balance and need consistent mental health/substance use disorder professional and/or trained peer support attention. It's no different from the way our backs can bring excruciating pain when they have been severely strained or injured.

We have a challenging problem that the Oregon legislature can help solve. The dedicated, talented, and optimistic staff we have the privilege of working with have difficulty with their costs of housing and health insurance! They leave us, and all too often, the field of behavioral health because the rates we receive do not make it possible to provide a truly living wage.

We ask that you invest significantly to the funds that provide Behavioral Health to all of our communities. Specifically we ask that you ensure the state dramatically increases the rates that are referred to as "DMAP" which stands for the "Division of Medical Assistance Programs." Overall, mental health DMAP rates were last slightly increase in 2009, that's now 10 years ago! And historically substance use disorder rates have been even lower. These rates are woefully inadequate and they translate into low wages and difficulties for staff paying for housing and health insurance. They translate into high staff turnover rates! We have made ourselves, rightly so, raise staff salaries over these 10 years but have diminished their take home pay with ever increasing rates for health insurance! Please keep in mind, those coming to all of us for help want to be able to keep working with staff that they experience as good for them.

At least one CCO (or Coordinated Care Organization) will only reimburse providers for "only a percentage" of those rates which means even less money for having more consistent staff for those seeking our services. That should never be allowed! At the same time, some CCO's do the right thing and reimburse us better than the current rates because they want to invest in Behavioral Health but then cannot sustain those rates. Help them, help us, help others!

Invest for the One in Five!! Thank you for listening!



Please Help Us Continue to Help DHS Families Reunify and Remain Intact

In 2011 Senate Bill 964, Strengthening, Preserving, and Reunifying Families, was enacted. Since that time a number of organizations stepped up to provide much needed services for families engaged with the Department of Human Services. These crucial services have enabled parents who have had their children removed, to be reunified and helped parents at-risk of having their children removed to remain intact.

In the first two years the funds provided from SB 964 became available (FY ending 2014-2116), the Multnomah County Service Provider's Network has worked with DHS to reduce the length of time children remained in foster care by 18%, and, while the statistics are not yet available for the ensuing biennium, we are certain the length of stay of children in foster has continued to decrease.

Now the gains we have all made are in jeopardy as it remains unclear whether or not the funding attached to the Families First Act will allow us to continue providing these essential services. As the Families First Act focuses in on prevention, a focus also sorely needed, it is unlikely those funds will support many of our current efforts, and even if they can be arranged to do so, the most optimistic timeline for those funds to become available is two, may be even three, years from now. So, we are asking the Oregon Legislature to enact a bill that will allow all of us to continue providing these critical services to our families struggling to become and remain whole. DHS can not do this alone, they need a strong provider network!

We significantly
contributed
to an 18%
reduction of time
children remained
in foster care in just
2 years!

The Multnomah County Service Provider's Network

Serving DHS District 2 Families

East Metro Mediation (City of Gresham) Family United

Family SkillBuilders Guiding Light Family Services Greater New Hope

NARA Parenting with Intent SEI

The Services We Provide That Are At Risk

Housing and Stability

Hands-on Parenting Groups

First Contact

Meeting Facilitation

Parent Support

Relative Support

Youth A&D Prevention Services

For more information contact::

Dr. Jay Klusky, (Guiding Light Family Services, LLC) 503.422.2864 jay.klusky@gmail.com

The Multnomah County Service Providers Gets Results!

Here are just a few:

- 75.5% of families referred for housing support move into their own apartments within four months of referral.

This is an astounding number given that the average 1 bedroom apartment is renting for \$1,250/mos. and a family's rent is supposed to be one-third of the family income. On average our clients earn a little over \$1,000/mos. This is even more astounding given that a high percentage of our clients have criminal backgrounds and/or poor rental history.

- 83.5% of parents of children in foster care referred to our Hands-on Parenting Programs see an increase in visitation time and a decrease in level of visit supervision with the majority needing no DHS supervision at all by the time they complete our programs.
- 34.5% of parents of children in foster care have their cases closed within four months of beginning our Hands-on Parenting Programs.
- We help approximately 70% of parents referred to our Housing and Parenting programs who want employment, find stable work.

Our providers, working closely with DHS, strengthen families at risk of homelessness and at-risk of having their children placed in foster care system. We are instrumental in helping to reunify families whose children have been removed. Perhaps of greatest import, we help those we serve to reaffirm their dignity and self-respect.

And of course, we save the state money!

- Helping parents find work moves them from needing social supports to becoming tax-payers.
- Helping parents establish stable housing contributes to more stable, functional families, increasing the chances their children will grow up to be contributors to, rather than drains on, our community.
- As families have gained greater stability, the need for removal and subsequent hoteling of children has decreased.
- As more families are reunified, fewer children need to be hoteled.
- We save the state on the transporting of children in state care.

As of the coming fiscal year, the Federal Government will not be matching the State's contribution, removing \$3 million from DHS District 2's budget. (I'm sure much more is being removed across the state, and forgive me as our focus has been on Multnomah County.) We need your support. Please help us continue to provide these most crucial services!

Here are the outcomes for your SPRF contracts from July 2017 to December 2018:

Provider	Greater New Hope	Greater New Hope	Greater New Hope
Services Type (Click on name to jump to page)	Housing & Stability	First Contract	NE Campus
Provider #	221805	221805	221805
Contract #	154623	154630	154619
Outcomes			
Total Closed Cases	71	23	95
Achieved	58	23	66
% Achieved	82%	100%	69%
Partially Achieved	1	0	3
% Partially Achieved	1%	0%	3%
Not Achieved	12	0	26
% Not Achieved	17%	0%	27%

All

Rank	Service	Approx # responses
1	Housing & Stability Services (help finding housing and stabilizing family resources)	143
2	In-Home Safety and Parenting Support	120
3	Parent Mentor (A&D focused mentoring provided by former DHS clients)	98
4	Parent Alcohol & Drug Support / Navigation	72
5	Front End/Preventative Services	59
6	Enhanced Visitation (parent-child visit supported by parenting specialist)	55
7	Therapeutic Visitation (parent-child visit supported by family therapist)	52
8	Transitional Housing	51
9	Transportation	51
10	Parent Education & Training – Individual	49
11	Family Therapy	46
12	Childcare	42
13	Parent Education & Training – Group	36
14	Individual Therapy for youth	28
15	Meeting Facilitation (provider schedules and facilitates family meetings)	27
16	Relative Support (support for families caring for relative foster children)	27
17	Youth activities, camps, sports	19
18	Respite Care (for birth parents)	17
19	Youth Alcohol & Drug Support/Navigation	13
20	MyLife Youth Mentoring (ILP Support & mentoring)	10
21	Support & mentoring for sexually exploited and/or trafficked parents	9
22	Other	8
23	Support & mentoring for sexually exploited and/or trafficked youth	8
24	Other	5

Total # of Respondents: 256

DHS Staff

Rank	Service	Approx # responses
1	Housing & Stability Services (help finding housing and stabilizing family resources)	99
2	In-Home Safety and Parenting Support	85
3	Parent Mentor (A&D focused mentoring provided by former DHS clients)	66
4	Parent Alcohol & Drug Support / Navigation	51
5	Front End/Preventative Services	45
6	Therapeutic Visitation (parent-child visit supported by family therapist)	41
7	Enhanced Visitation (parent-child visit supported by parenting specialist)	36
8	Childcare	36
9	Transportation	33
10	Parent Education & Training – Individual	32
11	Family Therapy	29
12	Transitional Housing	26
13	Parent Education & Training – Group	25
14	Navigation (Resource/service/system navigation and support & community engagement)	22
15	Meeting Facilitation (provider schedules and facilitates family meetings)	21
16	Youth Mentoring	21
17	Relative Support (support for families caring for relative foster children)	18
18	Youth activities, camps, sports	15
19	Respite Care (for birth parents)	13
20	Youth Alcohol & Drug Support/Navigation	11
21	Support & mentoring for sexually exploited and/or trafficked youth	10
22	MyLife Youth Mentoring (ILP Support & mentoring)	7
23	Support & mentoring for sexually exploited and/or trafficked parents	6
24	Other	5
25	Support & mentoring for sexually exploited and/or trafficked youth	4
26	Other	4
27	Support & mentoring for sexually exploited and/or trafficked parents	4
28	Other	2

Total # of Respondents: 187

Community Partners

Rank	Service	Approx # responses
1	Housing & Stability Services (help finding housing and stabilizing family resources)	30
2	In-Home Safety and Parenting Support	25
3	Parent Alcohol & Drug Support / Navigation	16
4	Navigation (Resource/service/system navigation and support & community engagement)	14
5	Parent Education & Training – Individual	13
6	Family Therapy	13
7	Parent Mentor (A&D focused mentoring provided by former DHS clients)	12
8	Front End/Preventative Services	12
9	Enhanced Visitation (parent-child visit supported by parenting specialist)	12
10	Transitional Housing	12
11	Parent Education & Training – Group	12
12	Youth Mentoring	11
13	Individual Therapy for parents	10
14	Therapeutic Visitation (parent-child visit supported by family therapist)	8
15	Transportation	7
16	Childcare	7
17	Meeting Facilitation (provider schedules and facilitates family meetings)	7
18	Individual Therapy for youth	6
19	Youth activities, camps, sports	5
20	Relative Support (support for families caring for relative foster children)	4
21	MyLife Youth Mentoring (ILP Support & mentoring)	3
22	Youth Alcohol & Drug Support/Navigation	2
23	Support & mentoring for sexually exploited and/or trafficked parents	2
24	Support & mentoring for sexually exploited and/or trafficked youth	2
25	Other	2
26	Respite Care (for birth parents)	1

Total # of Respondents: 47

Clients

Rank	Service	Approx # responses
1	Parent Mentor (A&D focused mentoring provided by former DHS clients)	20
2	Housing & Stability Services (help finding housing and stabilizing family resources)	14
3	Transportation	12
4	In-Home Safety and Parenting Support	10
5	Enhanced Visitation (parent-child visit supported by parenting specialist)	7
6	Navigation (Resource/service/system navigation and support & community engagement)	7
7	Parent Alcohol & Drug Support / Navigation	5
8	Parent Education & Training – Individual	4
9	Therapeutic Visitation (parent-child visit supported by family therapist)	3
10	Individual Therapy for parents	3
11	Family Therapy	3
12	Front End/Preventative Services	2
13	Transitional Housing	2
14	Parent Education & Training – Group	2
15	Meeting Facilitation (provider schedules and facilitates family meetings)	2
16	Relative Support (support for families caring for relative foster children)	2
17	Respite Care (for birth parents)	2
18	Support & mentoring for sexually exploited and/or trafficked parents	2
19	Childcare	2
20	Individual Therapy for youth	1
21	Youth Mentoring	1
22	Youth activities, camps, sports	1
23	Youth Alcohol & Drug Support/Navigation	1
24	MyLife Youth Mentoring (ILP Support & mentoring)	1
25	Other	1
26	Support & mentoring for sexually exploited and/or trafficked youth	1
27	Other	0

Total # of Responses: 22

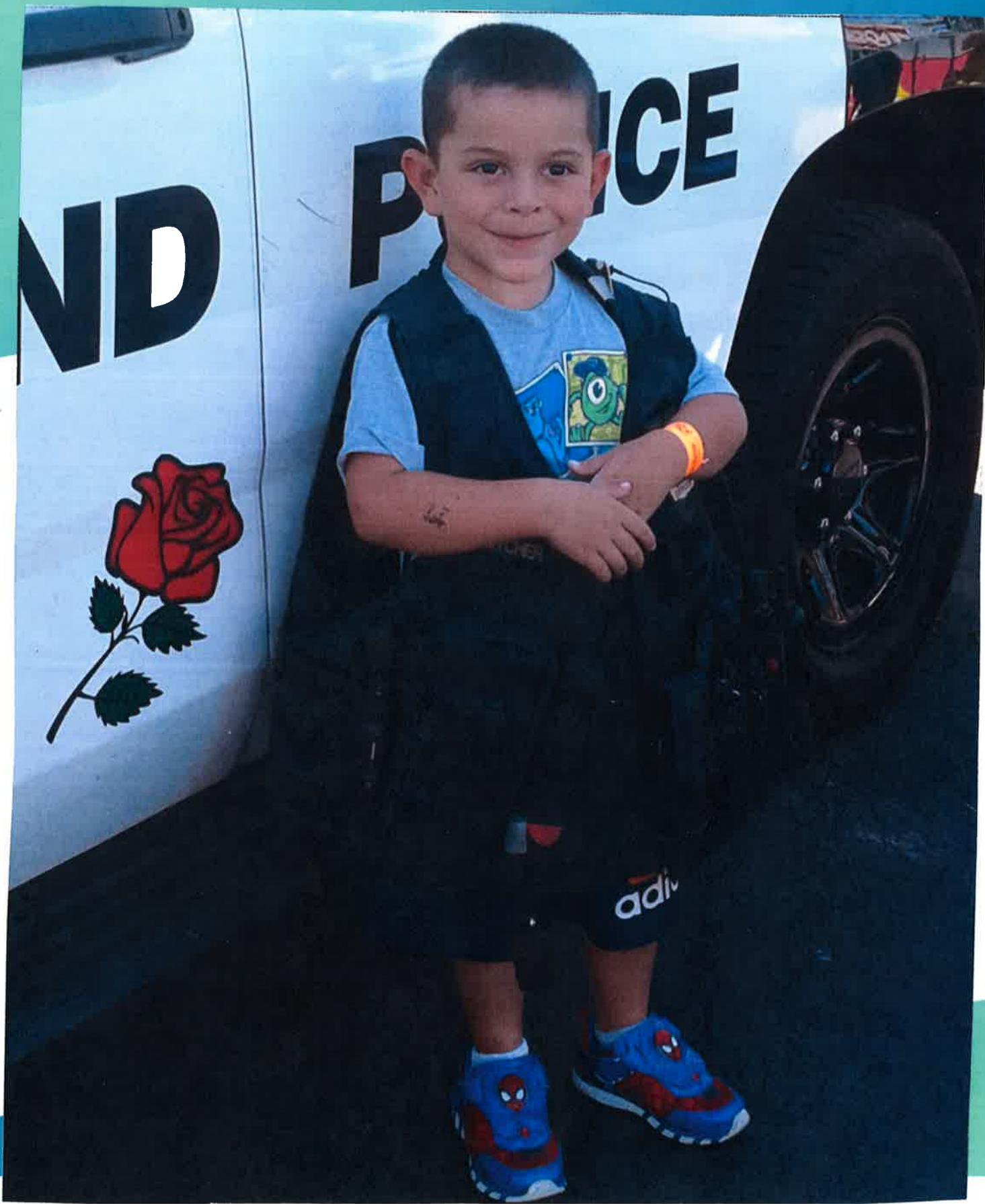
Note: 21 out of 22 client responses were facilitated by parent mentors, so results may be skewed towards parents facing A&D related issues.



Neighborhood House
Helping Neighbors Help Themselves

NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE Head Start

Letter from Head Start parent Cari Carr Markham site



Cari Carr

SW Community Representative 2018/2019

Parent of Head Start Student at Markham site 2017/2018

(Youcef Mokrani) Permission to use image provided

My son Youcef was born in the North African country of Algeria.

When we decided to move home we were only able to carry two suitcases out with us. One contained family photos and important papers and the other had two sets of clothing for each of our five children.

My husband and I were 52 and 47 respectively, with five children, one of them autistic and we were starting over from scratch.

I grew up in Coos Bay, Oregon but had only gone as far as Eugene or Salem for school and athletic events. But, I chose Portland as our new home from Africa although I had only been here once before with a competitive choir in High School.

We had no family here. My children had been raised in a country where the predominant languages were Arabic and French.

I can't overstate how overwhelming it was to move to the US with very little cash, and to settle in a new community.

I had to discover whether or not we qualified for services.....I had absolutely no idea how to go about receiving help for my autistic son.

I was very fortunate to meet a mother in the park that Summer who introduced me to Head Start and Neighborhood House.

At first, I assumed that Head Start was just a preschool and I was very excited to qualify for it as Youcef needed that extra exposure to English and the Alphabet and the school culture in the US to prepare for kindergarten.

I absolutely couldn't afford to pay for what he needed to prepare to be successful in school here.

I was surprised to learn though that Head Start was a much more comprehensive program.

I was assigned an advocate who visited my home and contacted me regularly.

She provided me with information on services I might qualify for including dental and medical services.

She asked whether or not we had necessities like adequate food and clothing for our children.

She also provided me with information regarding Autism services available in the Portland area for my older son who was not even directly in the Head Start classroom.

Head Start provided health screenings and tracked immunizations.

Youcef's teeth were examined and sealed to protect them from cavities.

His hearing was checked.

I was encouraged to join the Head Start Policy Council, in order to both become more involved with my son's education and the community and also to help me build the self confidence necessary to move towards reentering the workforce here in the US after being a stay at home mother in North Africa.

During Youcef's time in the program he was identified as having certain learning difficulties and intervention was immediately instituted.

One of these was a weighted lap cushion with handles to help him sit and focus.

I can't help but credit this early intervention for his improvement in Kindergarten.

To me, Head Start is about equity and inclusion.

I have seen economically disadvantaged parents with severely disabled children who have this program in a much better position to advocate for their child's needs.

I have seen the children of other families like ours, from diverse communities where English is not the dominant home language, come through Head Start, transition into Kindergarten and absolutely thrive.

This invaluable early education and intervention is something that without programs like Head Start would only be available to those who are capable of paying for it.

Children like Youcef would fall through the cracks.

I believe so strongly in the integrative approach of the Head Start program that I chose to remain with it as a Community Representative after my son had transitioned on to Kindergarten.

Although I understand that money is tight and that difficult decisions must be made I would hope that we as a community would always choose to place an emphasis on ensuring our future through equitable programs for our most vulnerable citizens, our children.



PLEASE SUPPORT \$101.3 MILLION NEW
INVESTMENTS FOR HEAD START and
PRESCHOOL EXPANSION IN THE GOVERNOR'S
BUDGET

\$101.3 million allows programs to:

Allow programs to serve more children

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Carrie Khatami
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Mohamed

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PLEASE SUPPORT \$101.3 MILLION NEW
INVESTMENTS FOR HEAD START and
PRESCHOOL EXPANSION IN THE GOVERNOR'S
BUDGET

\$101.3 million allows programs to:

Provide nearly 1,000 new slots for Early Head Start

Michelle Benikov

Carrie Hisekoni

~~Ann Rous~~

Angela Miller

Monica Wyck

S. Kim & Co.

~~BB~~

~~Star~~

Jane Larson

Britt

Mary Kell

~~Shirley~~
Lytish M. Lygai

Larry Hore

~~Bar~~

~~John~~
Richard



PLEASE SUPPORT \$101.3 MILLION NEW
INVESTMENTS FOR HEAD START and
PRESCHOOL EXPANSION IN THE GOVERNOR'S
BUDGET

\$101.3 million allows programs to:

Allow programs to serve more children

Wendy Puffer
Julia Myers
Josephine C. [unclear]

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unprobed.
Sandra Allen
Michael Blosser
[unclear]
Adriane Fox

Wambinda Songdo
D.M. Light
[Signature]

[Signature]

Ruben R.
Jacobi
[unclear]

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PLEASE SUPPORT \$101.3 MILLION NEW
INVESTMENTS FOR HEAD START and
PRESCHOOL EXPANSION IN THE GOVERNOR'S
BUDGET

\$101.3 million allows programs to:

Provide nearly 1,000 new slots for Early Head Start

Francis Lainer
White
What
Nidri
Jane Larson
Daniel Riley
Sauls Dale
Molof
Munten
Jesse
Cecilia
Rico
Jesse LaChance
Zahara



PLEASE SUPPORT \$101.3 MILLION NEW
INVESTMENTS FOR HEAD START and
PRESCHOOL EXPANSION IN THE GOVERNOR'S
BUDGET

\$101.3 million allows programs to:

Allow programs to serve more children

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PLEASE SUPPORT \$101.3 MILLION NEW
INVESTMENTS FOR HEAD START and
PRESCHOOL EXPANSION IN THE GOVERNOR'S
BUDGET

\$101.3 million allows programs to:

Expand the hours children are in the classroom

Paruna Ahmed
Farsat AZ:2

Abir Jagna

Mariam Ali

Yasmin

Rosa Trillo

Sokoray Abdullahi

Shirley

Sadiyo Hassan

Ayan Abdulkadir

Amir

Naimo Ali

Ash Mohamed

Amir

Zahra Mohamed

Amir

David Henderson

(Chester E. Maratuta)

Deborah Haeef

Amir

Badakli



PLEASE SUPPORT \$101.3 MILLION NEW
INVESTMENTS FOR HEAD START and
PRESCHOOL EXPANSION IN THE GOVERNOR'S
BUDGET

\$101.3 million allows programs to:
Increase pre-school teacher pay

Hulkun Javah
Shannon Kandel

Mohamud Hussein


Salah Beshir

Yaniam Abu

Yasmin

Bosa Trujillo

Janet Biketi

Sokorey Abdullahi



Myan Abdulhadi

Red (Cheslin Maratita)





David Henderson

Delora May






PLEASE SUPPORT \$101.3 MILLION NEW
INVESTMENTS FOR HEAD START and
PRESCHOOL EXPANSION IN THE GOVERNOR'S
BUDGET

\$101.3 million allows programs to:

Increase pre-school teacher pay

Layla Omar

Rana Sahar

Baddy Bings

Maria Santos Homan
Luz Maria Santos

Ali Omar

Amina Omar

Rosa S. M.

~~H. H. H.~~

R. Magier
~~M. G. H.~~

Mandal

Angélica González



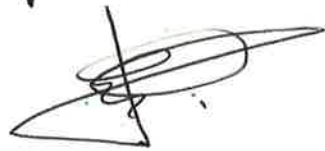
PLEASE SUPPORT \$101.3 MILLION NEW
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PRESCHOOL EXPANSION IN THE GOVERNOR'S
BUDGET


\$101.3 million allows programs to:
Expand the hours children are in the classroom

Ruth Bellini

Ruth Condomitti






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PLEASE SUPPORT \$101.3 MILLION NEW
INVESTMENTS FOR HEAD START and
PRESCHOOL EXPANSION IN THE GOVERNOR'S
BUDGET

\$101.3 million allows programs to:

Provide nearly 1,000 new slots for Early Head Start

Devan tiani

Gabriele Portenivall

Quantrel Golden

Judith Tejada

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Matthew

Matthew



PLEASE SUPPORT \$101.3 MILLION NEW
INVESTMENTS FOR HEAD START and
PRESCHOOL EXPANSION IN THE GOVERNOR'S
BUDGET

\$101.3 million allows programs to:

Allow programs to serve more children

Quentrel Golden D. Golden

Judith Tejada

Younes Sam

Nina Berhant

George Stewart

Jeffrey M. Mott



PLEASE SUPPORT \$101.3 MILLION NEW
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PRESCHOOL EXPANSION IN THE GOVERNOR'S
BUDGET

\$101.3 million allows programs to:

Allow programs to serve more children

Gillian Dodge

Edmundson

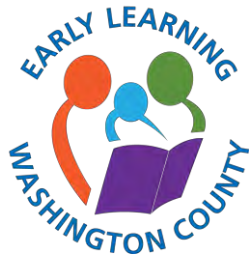
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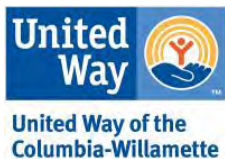
Rebecca Heldart

Narima Heldart

Costa



*A partnership between
United Way of the
Columbia-Willamette &
Washington County Health
and Human Services*



155 North First Avenue,
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Hillsboro, OR 97124
503-846-4539

Testimony to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means Portland – March 21, 2019

Co-Chair Steiner Hayward, Co-Chair Johnson, Co-Chair Rayfield,

As the Director of Early Learning Washington County (ELWC), the Early Learning Hub serving Washington County, I am pleased to submit this letter on behalf of the Hub, the parents we partner with and serve and our many strong early learning partners to inform your deliberations. There are a few points we believe it imperative your committee considers in your deliberations that will have a powerful impact on the lives and futures of many of the state's most vulnerable children and families.

1. We support increased revenue/taxes to support early learning.

2. Early Learning investments are critical to the current and future well-being of Oregon.

- Brain science makes clear that the first 2,000 days of a child's life – the time between birth and kindergarten entry – represent the most consequential period in human development.
- The typical return on investment (ROI) is \$2 to \$4 for every dollar invested due to:
 - Reduction in child welfare involvement
 - Reduction in crime-related behaviors
 - Higher likelihood of high school and college completion,
 - Increased earnings and workforce participation, and
 - Better healthⁱ

3. We support the Raise Up Oregon: A Statewide Early Learning System Plan for 2019-2023 in its entirety.

The strong cross-sector approach to meeting the needs of Oregon families is highly interdependent and would be greatly weakened if implemented in a piecemeal manner.

Thank you for your consideration and please let us know if there is any way we can support your critically important deliberations.

Sincerely,

Dr. Adam S. Freer, MDiv, MSW, DPPD
Director, Early Learning Washington County
Supervisor, Children Youth & Families Division

ⁱ Cannon, J.S., Kilburn, M.R., Karoly, L.A., Mattox, T., Muchow, A.N., Buenaventura, M. (2017). Decades of Evidence Demonstrate That Early Childhood Programs Can Benefit Children and Provide Economic Returns. Santa Monica, CA: RAND Corporation. Retrieved from https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_briefs/RB9993.html

Early Learning Washington County (ELWC) Steering Committee

Member Name	Title	Committee/ Organization	Sector
Lacy Hays	Parent	Parent Committee	Parent
Ahmed al-Zubidi	Parent	Parent Committee	Parent
Juana Garcia	Healthy Families Home Visitor	Equity Committee/ Lifeworks NW	Community Based Organization
Martin Blasco	Outreach Librarian	Equity Committee/ Washington County Cooperative Library Services	Early Learning/ K-12?
Kymerli Contreras	Assistant Director of Special Projects	Adelante Mujeres (Alternate)	Early Learning/ Community Based Organization
Bridget Cook	Executive Director	Adelante Mujeres	Early Learning/ Community Based Organization
Sabi Velasco	Preschool Promise Provider/Union Rep	Amazing Minds/ AFSCME Oregon Child Care Providers Together	Early Learning
Jared Cordon	Administrator for Early Learning & Elementary Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment	Beaverton School District	Early Learning/ K-12
Renee Bruce	Executive Director	Community Action Organization	Head Start/ Early Learning/ Community Based Organization
Mariela Mireles	Principal	Forest Grove School District	K-12
Peg King	Sr. Manager, Early Life Health Initiatives	Health Share of Oregon	Health
Olga Acuña	Director of Federal Programs	Hillsboro School District	K-12

Member Name	Title	Committee/ Organization	Sector
Amy Shea Reyes	Area Director for Prevention and Specialty Services	Lifeworks NW	Health
Nancy Ford	Early Intervention Coordinator	NW Regional ESD	K-12
Donalda Dodson	Executive Director	Oregon Child Development Corp. (OCDC)	Early Learning/ Community Based Organization
Hannah Lobingier	Director of Swindell's Center	Providence Health & Services	Health
Karen Twain	Asst. Superintendent	Tigard-Tualatin School District	Early Learning/ K-12
Katie Anderson	Youth Services Librarian	Washington County Cooperative Library Services (The County's public library coordination department)	Early Learning/ K-12
Marilyn Harrison (Chair)	Retired	Community Resident at Large	Community

To: Joint Committee on Ways and Means
Date: March 21, 2019 committee hearing in Portland
From: William Vollmer, representing the One Small Thing PDX Legislative Task Force
Re: Support for comprehensive campaign finance reform

One Small Thing PDX is a local grassroots organization with a mission of utilizing members' skills and relationships to advance and sustain actions that encourage progressive legislation and support progressive issues. We also support the election of progressive candidates at local, state and federal levels. Our guiding principle is the belief that an individual, regularly doing one small thing, can make a big difference in our country's future.

As part of our efforts, we have organized a Legislative Task Force to gather and disseminate information about bills proposed during the 2019 Legislative Session. I serve as the Task Force's point person for legislation regarding campaign finance reform.

Oregon's system of campaign financing is broken and badly in need of repair. OSTPDX believes that comprehensive campaign finance reform must be built on three pillars:

1. **transparency** (who is donating how much to whom; the Citizens United decision permitting "dark money" has limited the amount of transparency that is possible)
2. **limits/restrictions on donations** (since the Oregon Supreme Court has ruled that such limits would unconstitutionally constrain free speech, we need a constitutional amendment to address that)
3. **using incentives/public funds** to persuade candidates to forgo large donations

We are delighted to see that the legislature has before it a number of bills addressing each of these elements, and would particularly like to thank Rep. Rayfield for leading the charge on so many of these bills.

Regarding transparency, **we support HB2278, HB2708, HB2709, HB2710, HB2716, and HB2983**. Collectively they will greatly increase transparency surrounding campaign financing and enhance our ability to assure that the laws are being complied with.

Regarding limits/restrictions on donations, **we support SJR13, HJR13, and SJR18**, all of which would put a constitutional amendment before the Oregon voters in 2020 to enable subsequent legislation limiting campaign money and how that money can be used. We realize that SJR13 and HJR13 are very similar and that only one of these would likely go forward. It is our view that HJR13 will ultimately enable somewhat greater protection than will SJR13, but either would be a welcome reform.

Regarding the use of incentives/public funds to persuade candidates to forgo large donations, **we strongly support the small donor bill**, which exists before the House as **HB3004** and before the Senate as **SB1014**.

While there may be merit in further study of the issue of campaign finance reform, as proposed under **HB2714** and **SB115**, **we strongly urge the Legislature not to use these bills as an excuse for not taking action now.**

Finally, **we are opposed to HJM4**, which petitions the US Congress to invoke an Article V Constitutional Convention. We are extremely disappointed with the Supreme Court's decision in Citizens United, but feel this is the wrong way to overturn it.

The U.S. Constitution offers two ways to add amendments to our nation's governing document in Article V. The process that has been used for all 27 amendments added to the Constitution since 1789 is for an amendment to pass with a two-thirds vote in each chamber of Congress and then be ratified by three-fourths of the states.

The other, untested way laid out in Article V is for two-thirds of state legislatures to call for a constitutional convention, also known as an "Article V convention," to add amendments to the Constitution once they are ratified by three-fourths of the states. Throughout the 230-year history of the U.S. Constitution, an Article V convention has never been called by Congress, and the Constitution offers no guidelines or rules on how such a convention would work or if a convention can be limited to considering one amendment or subject.

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March 20, 2019

Oregon House Ways and Means Committee

Re: March 21, 2019 hearing concerning funding of Oregon's system of justice.

My name is Paul S. Bovarnick. I am a lawyer living and working in Portland, and I am a member of the Board of the Multnomah Bar Association. I have served on and chaired numerous committees of the MBA, OSB and OTLA during my career. I have been an Oregon lawyer since 1979, and I have litigated cases throughout Oregon, as well as in Washington, Idaho, Montana, Colorado and Wyoming.

Early in my career I represented farmworkers and others living in poverty in civil cases and I represented indigent defendants in criminal cases. For most of the last 30 or so years I have represented individuals in tort, employment and workers compensation cases, primarily involving large multi-state and multi-national corporations.

In my experience, access to justice is never a problem for the wealthy corporations who have injured my clients. In fact, delay is the friend of those defendants. Most of my clients aren't rich, so losing their health or their job, and often both, is devastating. Timely resolution of their cases, by trial or settlement, is the difference between homelessness and having a place to live, between going hungry or being able to feed their children, between health and only being able to get health care only when they are sick enough to go to an emergency room. Sometimes it is literally the difference between life and death. Court delays only serve to deprive citizens of the fair resolution of the wrongs that bring them to court in the first place.

For indigent defendants, having a lawyer with a case load that permits the lawyer to marshal the same defense as, for example, someone like Harvey Weinstein or Paul Manafort, may literally be the difference between prison and freedom.

In our country, we are taught to venerate and honor the rule of law. Indeed, the only private citizens who are required to swear an oath to support and protect the laws and Constitutions of the US and the State of Oregon are lawyers. Inadequate funding of the courts is making it increasingly difficult for our courts to provide for the resolution of cases in a reasonable time. Those delays are often devastating for ordinary citizens. The delays caused by inadequate funding are contributing to the creation of a system in which the benefits of the rule of law are available only to a wealthy few. And that undermines the rule

of law for all of us.

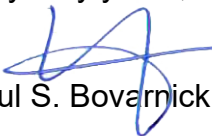
Here are two examples of why equal access to justice is so important. We recently settled a case for a client, who I will call Karen, just two weeks before trial. Because of the negligence of two corporations, Karen had suffered catastrophic injuries which resulted in hundreds of thousands of dollars in medical bills and which will prevent her from ever again working. The corporate defendants would not have settled the case had they not been faced with the imminent prospect of defending their misdeeds in front of a jury. But with the proceeds of her settlement, Karen now has the resources to secure the continuing medical care she needs and to help support her three young children. Inadequate funding of the courts threatens the ability of victims like Karen to obtain justice. In another case my mentally ill client, Dan, a pseudonym, was arrested and jailed for a minor offense. Dan remained in jail illegally for 4 months without ever seeing a judge. We ultimately secured a judgment against the government that helped provide for Dan's basic needs and which also made it clear that a defendant cannot be detained indefinitely just because he or she is too poor to have a lawyer.

A judicial system which cannot provide timely justice to citizens who have been deprived of their health, their income or their civil rights is no justice system at all. A justice system which does not give criminal defendants a fair shake is a system that our citizens cannot have faith in. And children who are ultimately failed first by the adults in their lives, and then by our justice system have no future.

Fundamental fairness is an idea that transcends politics or technology or age. Without an adequately funded system of justice for our children, our criminal defendants and all of our citizens, our State will send a message to our citizens that our justice system is not fundamentally fair. That is not the Oregon way. I urge this committee to make a commitment to Oregon's citizens that our government will do everything it can to assure access to justice for all Oregonians, not just the wealthy few.

Please feel free to contact me if you have further questions.

Very truly yours,



Paul S. Bovarnick

Dear members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means

I write to you as a 20+ year veteran of the alcohol beverage industry. Having started at a beer distributor at the age of 17 followed by long career working for companies like Jim Beam Brands Co. and Southern Wine and Spirits I fell in love with the retail format here in Oregon. Now I sit here 40 years of age and one of the newer and more successful new stores opened thru OLCC retail expansion phase 1 concerned with what may lay ahead. Having made the decision to give up my very successful career running one of the largest spirits distributor channels in the state with close to \$180mm in annual OLCC revenue responsibility to open a brand new/unproven entity in N. Wilsonville I knew it was going to be a risk. But it appears that the hits just keep coming. To start my venture off Gov. Kate Brown a couple months prior to opening my store announced that she was raising the minimum wage. With labor being the largest expenditure in our business and having \$0 in annual revenue I wondered "how is this going to work."

Now here I sit at the beginning of my third calendar year in an interesting position. Having worked 100-hour weeks for the first 18 months of operation, I managed to get labor costs down to around \$85k yr. 1, and \$110k in year 2 a **29% increase**. My desire to lower my loan mixed with my concern of paying people a large wage drove the hours worked. Physically tired and unable to work those excessive hours any longer I am forced to hire additional labor at a \$2/hr. premium of min. wage just to maintain the workers I have, let alone draw in new hires that don't no-show no-call during interviews. With what feels like a forever problem of the revolving employee issues, I wonder if it all was worth it. Now the looming issue of credit cards is going to be shifted to us, which could be ok if the plan is designed with the agents in mind rather than the OLCC just getting rid of an expense. The plan appears to provide an additional 1% of total sales. That sounds good on paper but without having an accurate rate at which I will be charged once taking the cards on my own, an estimate of 1.5% might not be covered by what the OLCC is proposing. The OLCC justification that with our current growth rates we will be covered, is interesting. So not only are we going to have the cards dumped in our laps, but we won't be rewarded for growing our business, and what happens if we stop growing? Seems like a miss or maybe just a bad idea altogether. With labor costs going up annually and rent increasing a minimum of 3% annually if not more depending on property improvement projects, we are stressed more than ever.

Now I understand that I don't have a long history as an agent, but I do have a long history in this business and the one thing that I have always heard is that it is getting harder and harder to make money. One thing that appears to be obvious is that the OLCC is finding more and more ways to make money and unfortunately this feels like another notch in their belt. The OLCC has grown from approx. \$450mm/biennium in 2001 when I started in the liquor business to now a staggering \$1.6b/biennium 2019-2021 estimate. All the while the agent comp has basically stayed flat (increase of .05%) from what I believe in the last 15yrs. I'm not aware of any industry that has only received a .05% increase when they sell 100% of the goods responsible for the creation of the state's revenue, especially when the agency has more than tripled in the last 18 years. As an interesting side note the rate at which my pay increased from 2001 to 2016 was (337.5%). Now I understand that was the difference from my first career to running a massive entity, but I worked just as hard in those jobs as I do now. Difference now is that I am doing it for my family and not for the pursuit of a fancy title or office.

As my business continues to grow in excess of \$4.2mm (top 50 store in OR) I know that my labor costs will continue to rise. In most cases I could adjust my inventory and try to capitalize on items that generate more profit, but there lies one main issue that will result in less sales and more complaints from customers as prices cross their comfort zones. I am in a lease that costs approx. \$5400/mo. \$40/sq. ft annually (just under \$3/sq. ft per month and \$1800/month in taxes that are unavoidable). The location is easily a top five location in the state but that comes at a massive premium which sacrifices store size. Currently we have around 1300 sq. ft. and are generating over \$3000/sq. ft. Wanting to move to a larger location only means an increase in labor, rent, utilities, increased equipment, security, etc. The OLCC has done a nice job of encouraging people to clean up their stores and some have obliged however it's easy to see how some people just wouldn't be able to do much based on the town they may reside. Having a new location made it easy for me as everything was new when I started. Thinking even five years ahead and what we need to do in order to stay modern and in line with what the customers/OLCC gives me concern what might be possible with all the rising costs that just don't ever seem to stop.

The true reason I started this business was to build a business my children could be proud of and hopefully take on some day when I look to retire. Having a child with Down Syndrome my wife and I want to make sure that our daughter can be taken care of if something happens to us. Our long term outlook for Stafford Beverage is to hopefully own multiple locations so each of our sons can have a store long term. But in the short term it would allow us to hopefully cut costs by sharing employees, provide benefits to managers, purchase inventory as a larger entity as well as hopefully lower the credit card costs by combining stores.

I appreciate you hearing my story for my kids' sake. I still love this business and my customers, but I long for an opportunity to be rewarded for my hard work, like I could in any other business!

Sincerely,

Jesse Stafford Agent #1264

Stafford Beverage/N. Wilsonville





OLCC LIQUOR AGENT ISSUES

BY DAN MINER, AGENT 1182, HOLLYWOOD BEVERAGE

AGENCY 1182 – HOLLYWOOD BEVERAGE

- Oldest liquor store in Oregon – opened March '34
- Appointed in 2008, sales were \$1.65M, 92nd in state for liquor volume
- One of 4 pilot stores to convert to non-exclusive in 2012, adding beer and wine
- Moved to current location in 2012, tripling space
 - Added large walk-in beer cooler
 - Added growler station, third growler station in PDX
- Became #1 liquor store in state by sales volume in 2015, currently #2
 - 55% counter sales, 45% licensee
 - Commission is approximately 7.7% net, due to structure of compensation formula (larger stores subsidize smaller stores, some of which receive 20+% commission)

IMPACT OF MIN WAGE INCREASES

- For every full-time employee (40/hrs per week)
 - Minimum wage increasing from \$9.75/hr to \$14.75/hr (PDX)
 - Currently \$12/hr (PDX)
- Chart does not include payroll taxes, W/C insurance



Increase/hr	\$ 5.00		
	Month		Year
Labor Hours	170		2040
Labor Cost	\$ 850		\$ 10,200
Sales Increase Required	\$ 11,039		\$ 132,468
Increased Rev to OR ★	\$ 3,974		\$ 47,688

★ Based on 36% net, OLCC data

ADDITIONAL SALES TO BREAK EVEN (PER EMPLOYEE!)

- Jameson Irish Whiskey (750mL) is highest \$\$ sales in Oregon
 - Current price is \$29.95 per 750mL bottle
 - Often on post off for \$26.95 (3-4 months/year)
- To break even on \$5/hr wage increase, must achieve these sales:

	Month		Year	
	\$29.95	\$ 26.95	\$29.95	\$ 26.95
Bottles Jameson	369	410	4,423	4,915
cases	31	34	369	410



42 CASES OF JAMESON 750ML

- 30-34 cases increased sales needed monthly for EVERY employee enjoying \$5/hr min wage increase!



1182 HOLLYWOOD 3 YEAR PERFORMANCE

				Year Over Year Growth				
	Counter	Licensee	Total	Counter	Licensee		Total	Comp Increase
2016	\$ 6,371,820	\$4,646,314	\$11,018,134					
2017	\$ 6,509,900	\$4,943,378	\$11,453,278	\$ 138,080	\$297,064	3.9%	\$ 435,144	\$ 33,506.09
2018	\$ 6,755,836	\$4,918,678	\$11,674,514	\$ 245,936	(\$24,700)	1.9%	\$ 221,236	\$ 17,035.17

- Average commission to 1182 is 7.7%, not 8.93%
- Annual sales are 2 times #18 ranked store
- \$245K growth is more than annual sales at 40+ agencies!
- Oregon revenue increase in 2017 was \$156K, \$79K for 2018

1182 HOLLYWOOD

- Sample Cost Increases

	Wages	Increase		Rent	Increase
2016	\$ 398,098			\$ 159,832	
2017	\$ 414,649	\$ 16,551		\$ 177,012	\$ 17,180
2018	\$ 482,633	\$ 67,984		\$ 199,138	\$ 22,126

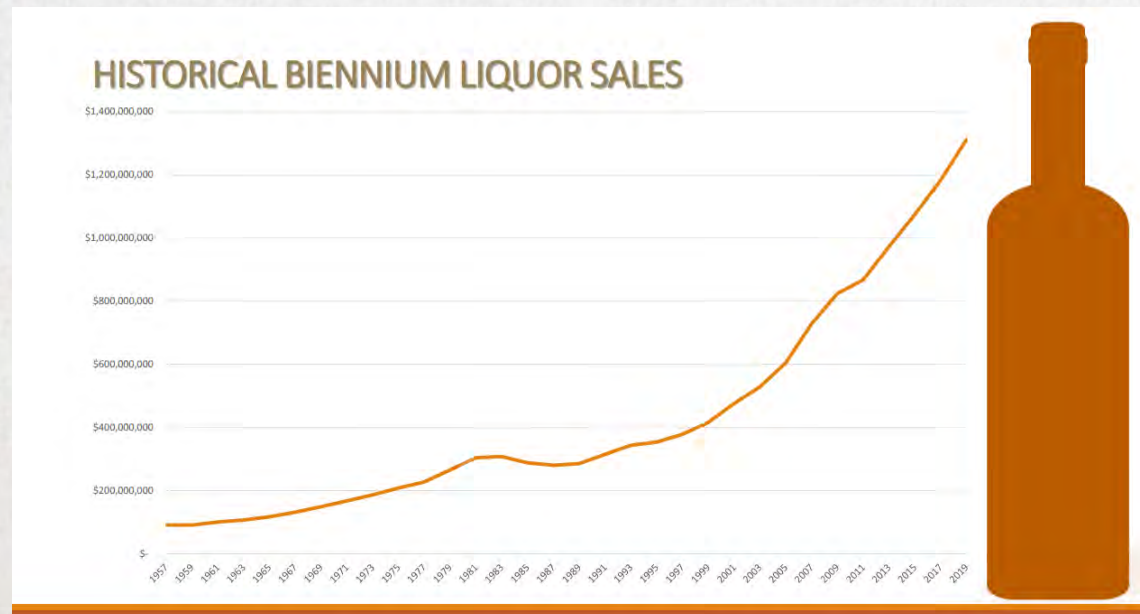
- In 2018, increased commission from liquor sales improvements was \$73,074 LESS than increases in labor and rent alone!

OLCC PAYROLL / LIQUOR STORE PAYROLL

- In 2018, OLCC employed 236 workers classified as “Represented”
 - AVG Wage was \$54,007/yr or \$26.47/hr
 - Average Wage of bottom 100 employees was \$39,702/yr or \$19.46/hr
 - <https://data.oregon.gov/Revenue-Expense/Salaries-Of-State-Agencies-Multi-Year/4cmg-5yp4/data>
 - *Note: these figures do not include cost of benefits offered, such as medical/dental ins, retirement accounts, paid holidays*
- 1182 Averaged approx. 15 FTE in 2016, 14 FTE 2017-2018
 - 2016 AVG Wage was \$26533/yr or \$13.01/hr
 - 2017 AVG Wage was \$29571/yr or \$14.49/hr
 - 2018 AVG Wage was \$34428/yr or \$16.87/hr
- *This equates to an increase from \$168/hr in liquor sales to \$219/hr per employee!*

LIQUOR REVENUE GROWTH

- 2019-2021 Biennium – \$635M total distributions
- 2013-2015 Biennium – \$435M total distributions
- \$200M growth – 46%!



PROJECTED ALCOHOL NET REVENUE DISTRIBUTION (GRB)

2019-2021 Biennium (GRB) – All Revenue Sources



BEER AND WINE TAXATION

- 4.7 cents 6-pack beer
- 17 cents 750mL wine
- \$10.78 for 750mL Jameson

- Beer and Wine taxes generate only 3% of OLCC revenues!

BEER AND WINE TAX COLLECTION

Oregon has established excise taxes for beer and wine

- \$0.08 per gallon for beer (\$2.60 per 31 gallon barrel)
- \$0.67 per gallon for table wine (14% and under alcohol by volume)
- \$0.77 per gallon for dessert wine (over 14% alcohol by volume)

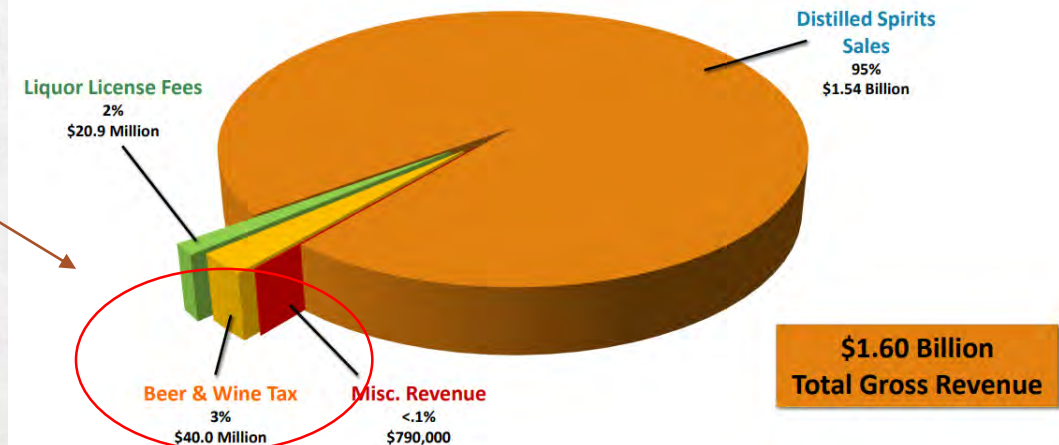
Beer and wine taxes are collected most at the wholesale tier of the system

- Paid by large distributors and warehouse wholesalers (90% of all taxes)
- Some tax collected at the manufacturer level such as wineries and brewpubs (10% of all taxes)
- Total collections are about \$18 million per year

Beer and wine retailed through licensed off-premises outlets such as grocery stores and convenience stores but also through wineries & brewpubs



PROJECTED GROSS ALCOHOL REVENUE SOURCES 2019-2021 BIENNIUM (GRB)



SUMMARY

- Oregon Liquor Agents generate significant revenue for Oregonians, while beer and wine taxes or license fees are relatively miniscule
- Agent compensation has not increased substantially for decades, despite growing sales
- Compensation formulas used by OLCC do not equitably distribute commissions and larger stores effectively subsidize smaller stores
- Legislated increased labor costs and other business expenses will impact Liquor Agents who do not control their prices and cannot react like other industries
- Providing increased compensation to account for legislated costs can be funded through organic growth and still provide record-high revenues

CONCLUSION

- Oregon liquor agents have significantly grown sales and tax revenue to Oregon resulting over the past decade. The State benefits from this growth more than 4 times compared to the agent. Oregon liquor agents need more compensation to address rising costs, attract and retain a skilled workforce, and to continue to invest in improvements. There is plenty of room to share growth with liquor agents and continue to grow tax revenues.

**Education Savings Accounts and Light Rail Funding
Testimony of Eric Fruits, Ph.D.**

Before the Joint Committee on Ways and Means
Oregon State Legislature, 2019 Regular Session
March 21, 2019

My name is Eric Fruits. I am an economist and the research director at Cascade Policy Institute. Cascade is a non-partisan policy research organization working to promote public policies based on sound market principles. As a non-profit corporation we are supported by contributions from individuals, foundations and businesses, most of them based in Oregon.

By my count this legislature is considering about \$3 billion of increased taxes, fees, and charges this session. Although it seems we never have enough money to do all the things we want to do, Oregon ranks near the top in own-source state and local government revenues as a share of personal income (figure attached). State and local government revenue accounts for one-sixth of the state's personal income according to the [U.S. Census Bureau](#).

Tonight, I would like to draw your attention to two ways in which the state can reduce spending and better the lives of many Oregonians.

One is [Senate Bill 668](#), currently waiting for a hearing to be scheduled in the Senate Education Committee. SB 668 would establish an Education Savings Account (ESA) program for Oregon K-12 students.

Because the amount of money allocated for each ESA is less than Oregon's full per-student cost, there is no net negative impact on public school spending on a per-student basis. In fact, as described in my [analysis](#) submitted to this committee (attached) the ESAs can be crafted to *increase* per-student spending in public schools.

My second recommendation involves the governor's request to spend more than \$25 million in lottery backed bond funds to extend TriMet's light rail system to Bridgeport Village. The project is not a state transportation priority and should not receive funding from our cash-strapped state coffers.

TriMet is hardly lacking in resources; it has two lucrative revenue streams through its own payroll tax along with the new statewide employee tax authorized in HB 2017, enacted two years ago.

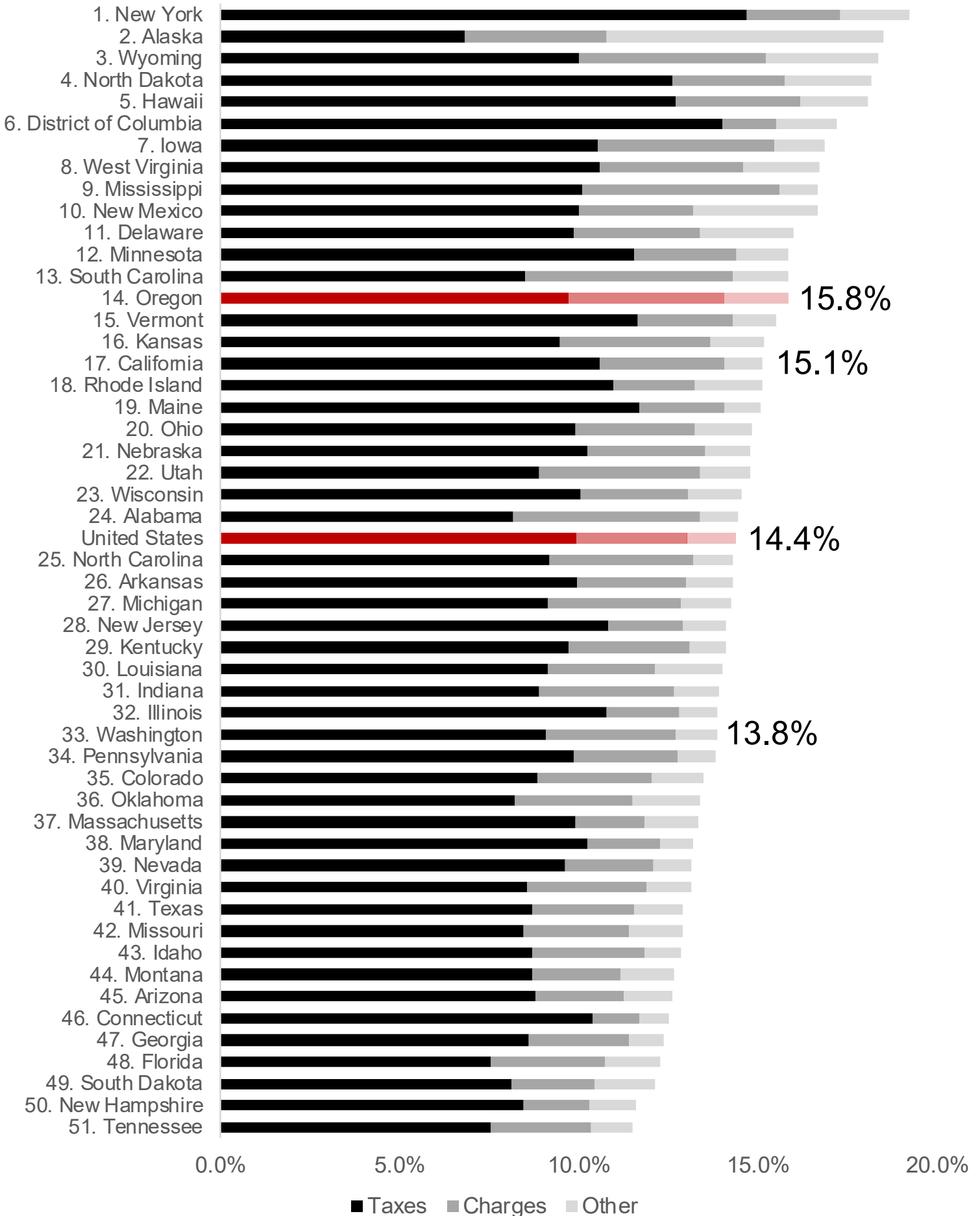
TriMet has a [well-documented](#) history of overestimating rail ridership projections and underestimating the capital costs of these projects (attached). As is, the costs of this latest expansion are skyrocketing and there has been no demonstrated need for light rail service to a high-end regional retail shopping center.

I hope you give SB 668 a hearing and I ask you to direct lottery funds to programs that provide demonstrated state-wide benefits to Oregonians, rather than light rail projects of dubious worth.

#

State own-source revenue as a share of personal income, 2016

U.S. Census Bureau, State and local government finances by level of government and by state



Education Savings Accounts

Fiscal Analysis of a Proposed Universal ESA in Oregon

Note: This report pertains to Senate Bill 668 in the 2019 Oregon Legislative Session.

by Eric Fruits, Ph.D.
January 2019

About the Author

Eric Fruits, Ph.D. is an Oregon-based economist and adjunct professor at Portland State University. Fruits has been invited to provide analysis to the Oregon legislature regarding the state's tax and spending policies. His testimony regarding the economics of the Oregon public employee pension reforms was heard by a special session of the Oregon Supreme Court.

About Cascade Policy Institute

Founded in 1991, Cascade Policy Institute is Oregon's premier policy research center. Cascade's mission is to explore and promote public policy alternatives that foster individual liberty, personal responsibility, and economic opportunity. To that end, the Institute publishes policy studies, provides public speakers, organizes community forums, and sponsors educational programs. Cascade Policy Institute is a tax-exempt educational organization as defined under IRS code 501(c)(3). Cascade neither solicits nor accepts government funding and is supported by individual, foundation, and business contributions. Nothing appearing in this document is to be construed as necessarily representing the views of Cascade or its donors. The views expressed herein are the author's own.

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Education Savings Accounts

Fiscal Analysis of a Proposed Universal ESA in Oregon

Note: This report pertains to Senate Bill 668 in the 2019 Oregon Legislative Session.

Executive Summary

Education Savings Accounts deposit a percentage of the funds that the state would otherwise spend to educate a student in a public school into accounts associated with the student's family. The family may use the funds to spend on private school tuition or other educational expenses. Funds remaining in the account after expenses may be “rolled over” for use in subsequent years.

Empirical research on private school choice finds evidence that private school choice delivers benefits to participating students—particularly educational attainment.

Currently, Arizona, Florida, Mississippi, North Carolina, and Tennessee have active ESA programs that are limited to particular groups of students such as those with special needs. The proposed Oregon ESA bill would introduce a universal ESA program for all K–12 students.

ESAs are frequently designed so the amount of funding provided to families is less than the amount the state would otherwise pay for a student to attend public school, with the state recouping the difference. In this way, ESAs can be designed to produce a net fiscal benefit (i.e., cost savings) to state and local government budgets.

A fiscal analysis of the proposed Oregon ESA bill finds that it would cost the state approximately \$128 million a year but would lead to savings of about \$130 million a year to local school districts, for a net state and local impact of approximately \$2.2 million in reduced costs. There is virtually no net impact on per-student spending for students who choose public K–12 education. ■

School choice is gaining wider acceptance across America. School choice refers to a wide array of programs offering students and their families alternatives to publicly provided schooling in which students are assigned a district and a school by the location of their family residence.

Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) are somewhat similar to vouchers but can be used to pay for a broader array of services. ESAs direct a percentage of the funds that the state would otherwise spend to educate a student in a public school to the student's family to spend on private school tuition and/or other approved educational expenses.

ESAs typically give parents much needed flexibility to customize their children's educations. For example, in addition to private school tuition, ESA funds may be used for private tutoring or online learning. In addition, ESA funds may be saved to pay for future higher education costs.

Currently, Arizona, Florida, Mississippi, North Carolina, and Tennessee have active ESA programs that are limited to particular groups of students such as those with special needs. The proposed Oregon bill would introduce a “universal” ESA program in the state covering all K-12 students.

This analysis supplements a report submitted for a hearing before the Oregon Senate Committee on Education on June 13, 2017 and follow up analysis in response to questions from the committee chair.¹ The earlier report provides an introduction to school choice funding, identifies the differences between ESAs and vouchers, and describes existing state ESA programs.

1. Summary of the proposed Oregon bill

The proposed Oregon bill establishes an Education Savings Account program in which funds are deposited in accounts for use by parents to pay for some of their children's educational expenses.

- The amount deposited is based on the average per student distribution of State School Funds as general purpose grants for all school districts in the state. For the 2018-19 school year, the estimated amount is \$9,578 per student.²
 - Participating children with a household income less than 185 percent of the federal poverty level



and participating children with a disability, as defined in ORS 343.035, would receive \$6,500 deposited in their accounts.

- All other participating children would receive \$4,900 deposited in their accounts.
- Funds from the ESAs may be used for:
 - Tuition and/or fees at a private school;
 - Tuition and/or fees for non-public online learning programs;
 - Private tutoring;
 - Services contracted for and provided by a public school, public charter school, magnet school, or online public school, and including individual classes and extracurricular activities and programs;
 - Textbooks, curriculum, or other instructional materials;
 - Computer hardware, software, or other technological devices that are primarily used to help meet a student's educational needs;
 - Uniforms purchased from or through a private school;
 - Fees for nationally standardized assessments, Advanced Placement examinations, state-recognized industry certification exams, any examinations related to college, university, career, or technical school admission, and tuition and/or fees for preparatory courses;
 - Fees for summer education programs and specialized after-school education programs. This excludes after-school childcare.
- Any funds remaining in the ESAs at the year's end are held in the account, may be used in subsequent years, and may be used for post-secondary education within the State of Oregon.
- Parents must apply to participate in the ESA program by entering into a written agreement with the State Treasurer. The State Treasurer may deduct as much as three percent from each grant for administrative costs.

A fiscal analysis of the bill (described below) indicates that it would cost the state approximately \$128 million a year but lead to savings of about \$130 million a year to local school districts, for a net state and local impact of

approximately \$2.2 million in reduced costs.

2. Fiscal analysis of the proposed Oregon bill

The amount of the ESA deposits is the biggest driver of fiscal impacts. Under the proposed Oregon ESA bill, participating students with disabilities and in low-income households would receive \$6,500 a year in their ESAs. All other participating students would receive \$4,900.

Another key driver is the number of non-public school students (e.g., private school or homeschool) that would participate in the ESA program. In Oregon, the average private school tuition for 2017-18 is \$8,730.³ In many cases, the amount of the ESA deposit would be less than the cost of tuition at a private school. In addition, it would be reasonable to conclude that not every non-public school student would participate in the ESA.

- On the demand side, some families oppose any government intervention in education and may decline on principle to opt-in to the ESA program.
- Also on the demand side, some families would not be aware of the ESA program and/or choose not to submit themselves to the regulations regarding the program.
- On the supply side, some education service providers will choose not to participate in the program. Research involving state funded scholarship programs in three states found less than 55 percent of eligible schools chose to participate in their state's program.⁴

This analysis assumes that 80 percent of current non-public school students would participate in the ESA. If participation is lower, the ESA program would see larger cost saving to state and local governments.

Table 1 shows the net fiscal impact on state and local budgets for the proposed Oregon ESA bill. The table is based on a fiscal impact with the following assumptions and parameters.

- The Oregon Department of Education estimates 2018-19 public K-12 enrollment of 575,000.⁵ Based on information from the U.S. Department of Education, private school enrollment is assumed to be 71,100.
- Calculations based on information from the Census Bureau and the U.S. Department of Education indicate that 46.1 percent of current public school students would qualify for the ESA amount associated with students with disabilities and in low-income households.⁶ Among students in private schools, 23.4 percent would qualify.

- The State Treasurer would deduct no more than three percent from each grant for administrative costs. This amount represents a reduction in the amount deposited in the ESAs and a reduction in the net costs of the program to the state.
- The price elasticity of demand is assumed to be 0.11.⁷ In other words, a 10 percent decrease in the price of private instruction would be associated with a 1.1 percent decrease in public school enrollment. On average, the proposed ESA bill would amount to a 63 percent reduction in the effective cost of private school tuition for ESA students, which would be associated with an estimated 6.9 percent reduction in public school enrollment.
- It is assumed that 80 percent of students currently enrolled in non-public education would participate in the program.
- State School Funds general purpose grants for all school districts in 2018-19 school year is estimated to be \$9,578 per student.⁸ Current public school students who transition out of the public system would free up these state funds.
- Local funding for public education is estimated to average \$3,286 per student in 2018-19.⁹ Current public school students who transition out of the public system would free up these local funds.

Table 1 summarizes the impacts. Positive numbers represent a cost to state or local governments and negative numbers represent a *benefit* or *cost saving* to state or local governments. Because the expenditures of ESAs in Table 1 are less than current educational expenditures of state and local governments, the savings associated with students switching from public to private instruction roughly equals the costs of providing funds to existing private school students.

3. District level impact of the proposed Oregon bill

In a 2017 hearing before the Oregon Senate Committee on Education, Chairman Arnie Roblan asked how an ESA would affect local school district funding.¹⁰ He noted, “Once the person leaves the school system, there isn’t any money for them any longer.” In other words, the senator was concerned local districts would no longer receive state funding for students who use ESA funds to transfer out of the public school system.

The savings generated by ESAs are a testament to their fiscal superiority for both state and local educational funding. The amount of the ESA distributions is lower than

current per-student grants from the state—35 percent lower for students with disabilities and in low-income households and 50 percent lower for all other students. Additionally, the costs of ESA distributions are lower than the average per-student cost to districts. Thus, the reduction in costs overall outweighs the reduction in grant revenues from the state.

On average, across all Oregon public school districts, approximately one-third of funding comes from local sources—mostly property taxes. Because ESA funding would come from the state, these local sources of school funding would be unaffected by ESAs.

Calculating per student funding is straightforward:

$$\frac{\$ \text{ of funding}}{\# \text{ of students}} = \$ \text{ per student.}$$

Consider Coos Bay School District 9. Based on published elasticity estimates, assume the district sees 250 of its 3,240 students leave and take ESA funding with them. The district currently has \$10,110 in per student funding, based on \$24.3 million from state sources, \$8.5 million from local sources, and 3,240 students (fall enrollment), shown in the table below.¹¹

At an ESA amount of \$6,500 for each participating student with disabilities and/or in a low-income household and \$4,900 for all other students, approximately 250 students are estimated to shift out of the public school district.

Based on the existing funding formula, the district would receive \$2.4 million less from the state, but would see no change in the amount of funding from local sources. Total state and local sources combined would decline by 7.4 percent. At the same time, public school enrollment would decline by about 7.7 percent. Because the decline in funding is less than the decline in enrollment, funding per student remaining in the district would increase by \$40 per student, or less than one-half of one percent.

Additionally, nothing in the proposed Oregon ESA bill need prohibit the state from adjusting its funding formula—as with charter schools—to leave a portion of state funding with a school district. For example, Oregon school districts sponsoring a charter school may hold back 20 percent of the state funding for K-8 students and 5 percent of the state funding for students in grades 9-12. A similar framework could be applied to ESAs.

The proposed Oregon ESA bill provides for a 3 percent state holdback of ESA funds to support the Treasury’s costs of administering the program. The state may also decide to pass on a percentage of state funds not allocated to the ESA account to local school districts to help ensure that local districts are no worse off, and even ensure that they are

better off financially as some students take advantage of ESA opportunities.

Table 1: State and local impacts of the proposed Oregon ESA bill

ESA - Low Income and Disabled	\$6,500
ESA - All other	\$4,900
Impact from public school students	
ESA participants	39,600
Amount of grants from state	\$223,342,000
Less: Treasury holdback	6,700,000
Less: Grants under current law	379,368,000
Increased (decreased) state spending	\$(162,726,000)
Foregone state grants under current law	\$379,368,000
Less: State and local spending under current law	509,719,000
Increased (decreased) local spending	\$(130,351,000)
Increased (decreased) combined state and local spending	\$(293,077,000)
Impact from non-public school students	
ESA participants	56,900
Amount of grants from state	\$299,865,000
Less: Treasury holdback	8,996,000
Increased (decreased) state spending from ESA participation	\$290,869,000
Net impacts	
State budget	\$128,143,000
Local budgets	\$(130,351,000)
State and local budgets combined	\$(2,208,000)
Net increased (decreased) state and local spending per participating student	\$(23)
Increased (decreased) spending per K-12 student in public schools	\$4

Table 2: Impact of ESA on district level funding

	Current	After ESA	Impact of ESA
Public school fall enrollment	3,240	2,990	(250)
ESA participants	0	250	250
State School Fund Grant	\$24,309,000	\$21,895,000	\$(2,414,000)
Local Revenue	8,450,000	8,450,000	-
Total state and local sources	\$32,759,000	\$30,345,000	\$(2,414,000)
Per student			
State School Fund Grant	\$7,500	\$7,320	\$(180)
Local revenue	2,610	2,830	220
Total state and local sources	\$10,110	\$10,150	\$40

4. Conclusion

School choice is gaining wider acceptance across America. Education Savings Accounts allow parents to receive a deposit of public funds into government-authorized savings accounts with restricted, but multiple, uses. Those funds can cover private school tuition and fees, online learning programs, private tutoring, community college costs, higher education expenses, and other approved customized learning services and materials. Five states currently have ESA programs.

ESAs are frequently designed so the amount of funding support provided is less than the amount the state would otherwise pay for a student to attend public school, with the state recouping the difference. Policymakers can choose to reinvest the funds in state education funding, redeploy the funds elsewhere, or reduce taxes, fees, and charges. In this way, ESAs can provide a net fiscal benefit to state and local government budgets.

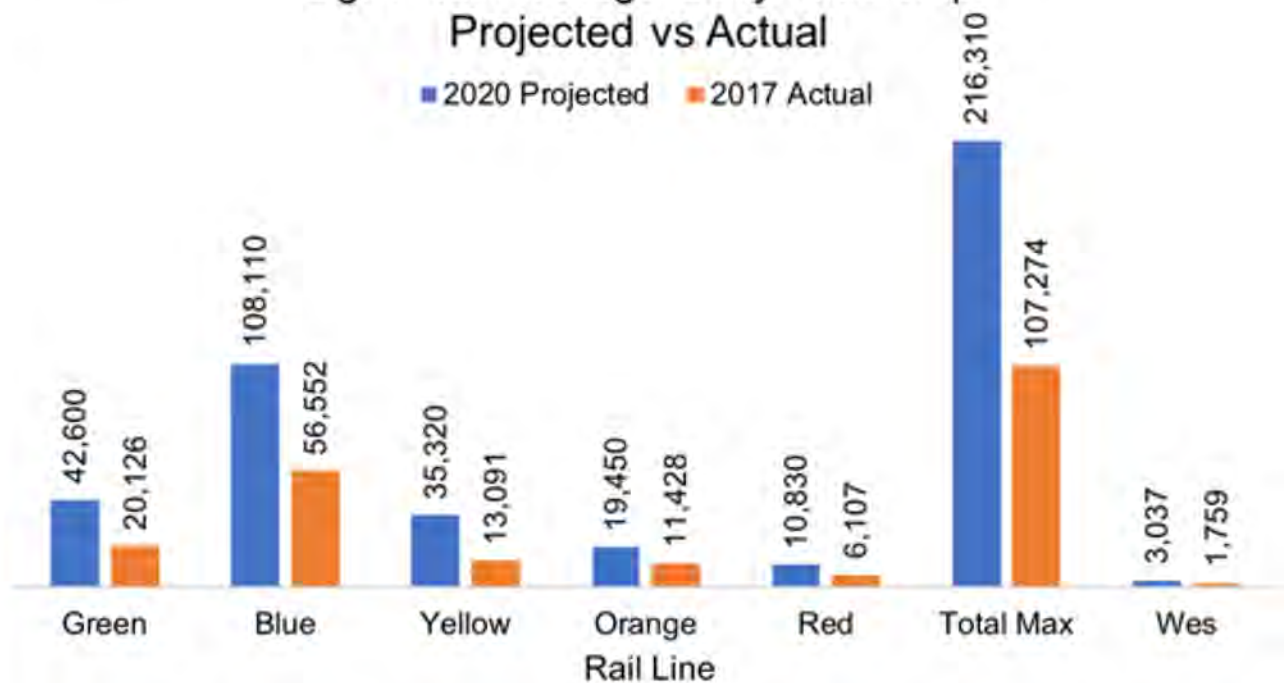
A fiscal analysis shows the proposed Oregon ESA bill would cost the state approximately \$128 million a year but would lead to savings of about \$130 million a year to local school districts, for a net state and local impact of approximately \$2.2 million in reduced costs, with virtually no impact on per-student spending in public schools. ■

ENDNOTES

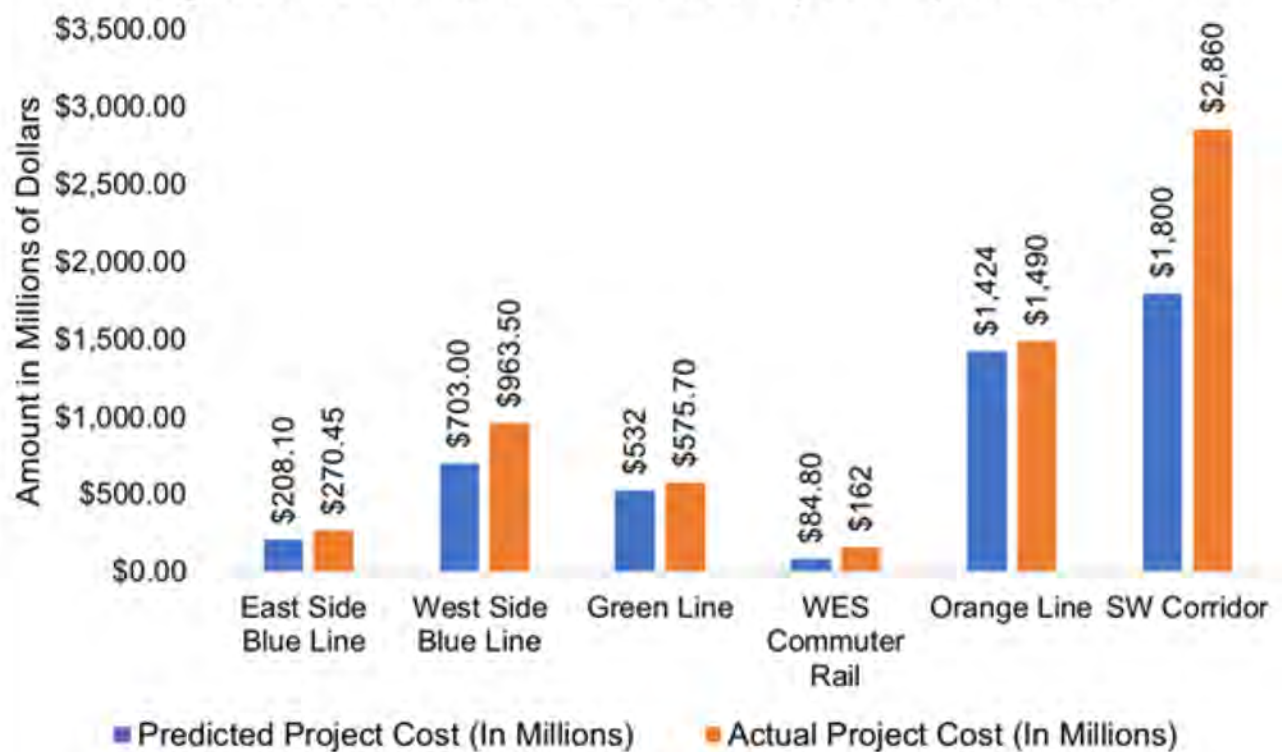
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Light Rail Average Daily Ridership Projected vs Actual

■ 2020 Projected ■ 2017 Actual



Light Rail Predicted vs. Actual Project Capital Costs



From: [Traci Brumbles](#)
To: [waysandmeans budget](#)
Subject: Traci Brumbles - Rainier Liquor Store
Date: Thursday, March 21, 2019 2:21:16 PM

Good evening Co-Chairs and Committee Members -

My name is Traci Brumbles. I have been the liquor agent, in Rainier for 18 years.

During that time, I have had to deal with ever increasing business expenses. Just like many small businesses in Oregon the daily cost of keeping the doors open is often daunting. Even with the added challenge of living by the rules of the OLCC, my store sales have increased 700%.

-
In the past 18 years agents have increased liquor revenue for the state approximately 500%, but in that same time period our compensation increases have been minimal, seldom and in some years decreasing. We are rewarded for our hard work by being paid on a sliding scale, even as we exceed biennial prediction by many millions of dollars.

In my tenure, we have seen around a half a percent increase to our low compensation rate. This was over a dozen years ago, and it came with strings attached. Many agents still have a sour taste over the paper bag issue. Now there is talk of shifting some 14 million dollars to agent comp for us to pay for the States bank card fees. This is not a compensation increase it is a transfer of responsibility. I feel it is unfair, unsustainable, and harbinger for a failed business plan that will leave many unable to make a living.

Nearly every biennium, we are threatened with privatization schemes, new regulations, and store expansion plans. We are also targeted with minimum wage increases, and a myriad of taxes aimed at small business. Almost any phase of doing business hasn't been touched. As liquor agents we are without the option of raising the price of our

product like other business can. Agents have done more for the State with less to work with, than any other source of revenue.

When we explain we need more money we are told to sell more liquor, when we sell more liquor, we then exceed biennial predictions. Now we are back to getting paid less because of the sliding scale. This leaves us no predictability of income.

For the past 18 years my employees have been the greatest expense for my business. I have tripled my work force to keep the integrity of my store well within the OLCC guidelines. That being said; I've seen my bottom line decrease by many thousands of dollars even though I'm selling more liquor. The increase in minimum wage and other taxes are what will eventually force me to let employees go, run the store understaffed which will lead to inconveniencing our customers. This bothers me a great deal.

In closing today, I ask that Liquor Agents be treated fair. That our hard work and tremendous contribution to the State be rewarded with a meaningful raise in compensation with no strings attached. I ask this so we can keep the high standards the OLCC has outlined for us and continue to provide a valuable service to the State of Oregon. The turnip has been squeezed dry.

Thank you for your time today and listening to my personal story.

Traci Brumbles- agent 1052 Rainier

From: [Sunny Petit](#)
To: [waysandmeans budget](#)
Subject: Portland, March 21 Budget Roadshow Testimony
Date: Thursday, March 21, 2019 3:02:15 PM

Good afternoon Co-Chairs Johnson, Rayfield, Steiner Hayward, and members of the committee,

For the record, my name is Sunny Petit. I am an Oregon foster parent and I serve as a liaison between other foster parent groups such as the Oregon Foster Parents Association, and the Foster Homes of Healing Coalition.

As a foster parent I came into the role with the best intentions; to serve children and provide love and a home for a child in a difficult position. I have since learned **that** is only a portion of what foster parents do. They are 24-7 support and reinforcement for a child who has experienced significant family challenges in their young life. Even in the best of cases the role of a foster parent involves an almost therapeutic level of support.

My most recent foster child, a 4 year-old sweetheart, needed the positive reinforcement and adult supervision you would expect, but she also said and did things that called into question her safety and the safety of those around her. I had to teach myself how to redirect her and moderate safe play with my other children.

One of the biggest challenges I faced was helping her distinguish the true from the false. I would delicately try to help her grasp her placement in foster care, her bio-family situation, and her future- with little information to go on, and very little support.

The challenges of raising a child who has experienced complex trauma are many. Reinforcing positive-parenting, trauma-informed care with foster parent training is great, but even better is trouble shooting all the unexpected things that having foster kiddos can bring up in the home. In order to retain foster parents, we need to provide them with specific, tactical, parenting techniques to help them parent in a healing way, while letting them know they are not alone.

The Foster Homes of Healing proposal to expand the KEEP model statewide is the peer support that KEEP offers. In the program each cohort is made up of 10 to 12 people who meet weekly to learn by using examples from the experiences **they are having in their home**. In addition to the clinical support of the group leader, families support each other by sharing success stories and offering encouragement. An added benefit is the weekly phone check in with the group clinician to address how things are going and offer support between meetings.

We should recruit all the foster parents we possibly can, and also retain them by providing them with services like KEEP.

Sunny Petit
Foster Parent Liaison
March 21, 2019



March 21, 2019

Joint Committee on Ways and Means
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Please support the OSU Arts and Education Complex

Members of the Committee:

I'm writing to urge your support for \$35 million in state bonds to support the development of the Oregon State University (OSU) Arts and Education Complex on the OSU Corvallis Campus.

The Arts and Education Complex will be a state-of-the art facility that will invigorate OSU arts programs benefitting the entire campus and communities the university serves. This project will expand and enhance facilities for OSU arts programs, including music, theatre, visual art and technology. The Complex will not only benefit all of OSU's 32,000 students, it will be a portal to transformative arts experiences for Oregon's 570,000+ K12 students and every community we serve throughout the state. OSU is already Oregon's leader in music teacher education and the expanded facilities will allow OSU to graduate more teachers and other alums who will create an exponential impact as they inspire future generations.

The Complex will be an investment in creativity that helps drive Oregon's economy—from creative-sector firms to technology innovation to small business of every kind. OSU is nearly finished securing \$35 million in philanthropic funds and is seeking an additional \$35 million in state bonds for a total investment of \$70 million.

We urge the committee to support the funding for this project, which will allow OSU to increase access to cultural experiences, enhance K-12 arts education, and create opportunities for technological innovation in the creation and experience of the performing arts. Investment in the Arts and Education Complex will make a difference for OSU students and the entire state. We hope you will support this important project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Perry".

Bill Perry
President

The Beaver Caucus is an independent, alumni led organization. It is a 501(c)4 with an independent board of directors. The Caucus works closely with the OSU Foundation to engage alumni and supporters, giving them the opportunity to amplify their voice and have a substantive impact on state government. thebeavercaucus.org



DATE March 21, 2019

TO: The Honorable Senator Betsy Johnson
The Honorable Senator Elizabeth Steiner Hayward
The Honorable Representative Dan Rayfield
Co-Chairs, Joint Committee on Ways and Means
Members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Alanna Braun, MD
Oregon Pediatric Society

SUBJECT: Reach Out and Read Funding 5015

For the record, I am Dr. Alanna Braun representing the Oregon Pediatric Society (OPS), which is the state chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. I am a pediatrician at Oregon Health and Science University. I am here today in support of the Reach out and Read program.

I am so grateful for your investing \$50,000 to the Reach Out and Read Program in the current budget, and am hoping that you will consider increasing the current service level funding by \$250,000 to sustain and expand the program in Oregon so that we can reach the children in our state that need this the most.

As a pediatrician, I see children over ten times before they start attending school, and I see all children, regardless of their income or resources. There are few programs that provide me with such clear ways to connect with families and improve literacy and developmental outcomes in my patients, and I feel very lucky to have had access to the Reach Out and Read program for my patients.

During one visit early in my career, I was seeing a family at their first visit to my clinic. Their baby was 6 months old, and when I walked in and handed them a book, the baby's mother exclaimed joyfully "Look honey! Your first book!!" I was delighted to be able to provide that gift to this baby, but often think back and wonder when that child would have had their first book of their own if they had not come to our clinic, and had we not been fortunate enough to be working with Reach Out and Read.



The more children are read to when they are babies, and the more words they hear, they will have stronger language skills as toddlers and young children, and will perform better in school. This is one of the best ways to build our children's literacy skills and success, and it is crucial that we start early.

We know that Reach Out and Read works, and I see it every day in my practice - with this program we give families opportunity and hope, and I am hopeful that with additional funding we can more fully serve and foster the children of Oregon, particularly those in underserved rural areas. Thank you so much for your time and consideration.

Hello members of the Ways and Means Committee,

My name is Imani Dorsey and I am a third year at the University of Oregon, graduating this spring with a degree in Ethnic Studies and a Legal Studies Minor. I am the Internal Vice President for the Associated Students of the University of Oregon (ASUO), a student board member for the Oregon Student Association, and this is my second year sitting on the Tuition and Fee Advisory Board at the UO. I am here to fervently advocate for the allocation of 1 billion dollars Public University Support Fund.

I am a first generation student, Oregon resident, and I don't qualify for financial aid, making my ability to attend the UO extremely sensitive to tuition increases. My parents had to take out huge loans so we can afford my education, but they reassure me frequently that I deserve to be attending a university and they are more than willing to sacrifice their financial security and future to invest in my own and create a life they never had. Tuition increases were sending the message to me and my family that students like me did not belong at the UO. It felt like I was being punished for needing higher education. After my freshman year when the BOT and the HECC approved a 10% tuition increase in 2017, I could not stand by idly and just let this happen — in order to protect my right to an education and my family, I had to intervene and get involved in the tuition setting process.

In our tuition and fee advisory board meetings, we talk a lot about the state and how your funding will factor into our recommendation for the level of tuition, but the issue is that we don't know at this point, and the only pattern that we can rely on is disinvestment in higher education. This year, the UO is running an approximately 7 million deficit and we are struggling with the dismal numbers we have received from the state so far. While I do believe the institutionalization of student voices in the process improved things, the problem is not the tuition advisory boards, it is the disinvestment from the state and the reliance on students to fix the budgetary problems we aren't even responsible for. My role on this board has been to resist tuition increases, but the responses students receive make it seem like our ask is not realistic. Why is wanting an affordable education unrealistic? Seeing the lack of change or improvement from my freshman year to now is unbelievably disheartening — why are we still having the same conversation? From my vantage point, it appears that the legislature and universities are comfortable with the status quo while students starve and overextend themselves just so they can get the education they have a right to. Students are pitted against faculty, staff, and graduate students for resources in this state of scarcity you all have helped create. Does this sound fair to you?

Tuition hikes and cuts to our valued faculty and staff are a harsh reminder that higher education institutions are inaccessible and exclusionary. At this funding

level, 1 billion dollars in funding would mean that Oregon is ending the trend of disinvestment and finally prioritizing higher education, protecting our right to education, supporting all students, and ensuring that our education is affordable, accessible, and quality. Please remember my testimony. Thank you for listening.

Dear Ways and Means Committee. My name is Tan Perkins and I am a 4th year student at the University of Oregon studying Political Science, and I am here to ask you to fund the Public University Support fund at 1 billion dollars. In the 4 years I have gone to the UO I have seen my tuition increase at a rate that is not obtainable for anyone. This is an obvious theme and I do not see an end in sight. Although the University is under financial stress for many reasons, and the state is also lacking revenue, putting the burden on students is never the answer. Student's can not be revenue suppliers for Universities, this debt and this theme is disenfranchising for the rest of student's lives. Student debt is making up trillions of the U.S. economy, with high interests rates, and no forgiveness. If we constantly encourage folks to go to college we should we not punish them with a lifetime of debt and the lifetime experience of stress. I am personally about to graduate from UO with close to \$80,000 in debt. This is a fact that keeps me up at night, that determine whether I eat, where I leave, the clothes I can buy, and the jobs I can apply for. This is not a unique experience, there are literally thousands of students who are struggling to just survive. I urge you all to seriously consider the repercussions of your decisions on people's lives, and their abilities to live. This is why I believe more so today than ever before in the importance of funding the Public University Support Fund with 1 billion dollars.

Dear Ways and Means Committee, my name is Marissa Gutierrez and I am a third year currently studying biology, and I am here today to ask you to fund the Public University Support Fund at 1 Billion dollars. Higher education funding is crucial in determining and progressing the financial stability of a mass amount of students that are not already well off. I am able to attend the University of Oregon through a combination of scholarships and loans every term, but anytime tuition increases it makes my chances of being able to continue my degree even more difficult. Being able to attend higher education programs is significant in creating different opportunities for a plethora of people. I myself wish to attend graduate school and continue studying astrobiology, but I fear having to take out even more loans. Without higher education funding, not only will we see a decline in college graduate numbers, but also a decrease in enrollment numbers. It makes it more likely that first generation students such as myself will not be able to enroll, and if they do start it makes it more likely that they will not finish their degrees. When funding for universities decreases, tuition adjusts to fill this gap, which ultimately weeds out those who are unable to afford college, and burdens the students who are already taking out the max amount of loans. Higher education funding is important because it keeps doors open for students from the lower and middle class, and creates opportunities to obtain degrees and find financial stability. Its is essential that high education is funded, and I ask of you to today to fund the Public University Support Fund at 1 billion dollars.

Greeting Ways and Means committee,

My name is Ivan and I am an ethnic studies major at the University of Oregon. I am here to ask y'all consider funding the Public University Support Fund at 1 billion dollars. I know there is a limited amount of funds to reach from, and I understand the importance of K-12 so I am here to encourage y'all to think Oregon education as a whole, and to fund education from cradle to career so to speak. Two years ago the University of Oregon wanted to increase tuition around 10% tuition, I was considering dropping out of school and working for one year then coming back to finish my higher education, but fortunately, the state passed the revenue package and I was able to continue attending the University of Oregon. I am planning on graduating this spring, and this would not have been possible if my tuition would have increased by thousands of dollars. Every time tuition goes up I am forced to take out more and more loans to pay for my basic necessities such as food and clothes. Even with the tuition increase under 5%, some of my friends were forced to drop out of the University of Oregon that year, and every time tuition goes up it means that more and more students will be priced out. We frame college as the way to becoming successful adults, and I believe education should be the basic right for every generation to achieve their dreams, but it's not always accessible in reality. As I graduate, I don't want to see the next generation graduate from high school and not be able to afford to pursue their dreams by attending University. I encourage y'all think about future generation and fund the Public University Support Fund at 1 billion dollars.

Warmest Regard,

Ivan

Dear Ways and Means Committee, My name is Ethan Shafer, my pronouns are he, him, his they, them theirs, and I am in my second year at the University of Oregon. I am here today to express my concerns regarding the proposed tuition increase on my campuses, and to ask you to fund the Public University Support Fund at 1 billion dollars.

I am thankful to have received a scholarship that allows me the opportunity to attend the University of Oregon, but I have no familial support. I work twenty hours as an RA in the dorms on campus in addition to serving as an ASUO Senator and sitting on the EMU Board of Directors while taking a full course load every term in order to graduate on time.

I come from White City, OR, where I have lived for 13 years. White City is a small non-incorporated town with less than 8000 people. White City families average about 3.3 people per household with a median income of \$44,490 a year. My town is a low income and low to no access community. White City has been a food desert for the past 12 years until recently having a grocery store open up. Growing up, my family had to drive miles to simply have basic staples such as fresh produce and nutritious food. My family wasn't the only family affected by this, we were more privileged than most but still faced financial struggle while growing up. The proposed tuition increases would make in-state tuition for myself (if I were only to take 15 credits a term) \$11,841. The cost of tuition would then be almost 27% of the average income for a family coming from my area. The cost of tuition, housing, food, and books would be \$24,416 a year, and this is not including personal expenses, transportation, insurance, etc. This would be almost 55% of the average income of families like my own. Let this be shown, that already at this point, it seems unachievable for people to attend college at its current price and the more that we climb, the less and less inclusive we are being of people's economic status. For students such as myself that come from small towns the way to have a better future is to attend University, but every time tuition is raised it makes that dream less and less accessible. For this reason, I

urge you to allow us to have a tuition freeze this year and fund the Public University Support Fund at 1 billion dollars.

Dear Ways and Means Committee,

My name is Emily Ma and I am here to ask you to support the Public University Support Fund at 1 billion dollars and the Oregon Opportunity Grant at 252 Million dollars. As a college student who was lucky to get enough in scholarships for my education, I only have to pay for my living and food expenses. I do so by taking on two stipended leadership position at the University and Oregon and a part-time undergraduate research job. I am already having a hard time juggling school with work and my other obligations, so I can't even begin to think about the struggles other students are facing who are working full time jobs just to be able to afford an education. My friend Angela talked to me about the hardships she endures in regards to tuition. She currently works as a tutor and also works full time at the UO University Dining. She gets around 4-6 hours of sleep a night. Her schedule consists of class, work for 4-6 hours, and then studying. After getting home around 8 at night, she says it's hard to study because you are already exhausted from working. In order to save on extra expenses, she rented out her apartment room and currently sleeps on the sofa in the common area. Her typical meal consists of a PB & J sandwich. Whenever I hang out with her, I always buy her lunch despite her protest. She isn't the only one who is struggling with paying tuition. My coworker in student government had to quit school to take on a full time job in order to pay off her last year in college. My other friend who is only a Freshman in college is already \$10,000 in debt. As colleges continue to increase tuition believing students will find ways to pay for it, they are not only pricing out many of us but also making us go to extremes just to get an education. The fact that tuition continues to rise every year is a crisis for students that is created by legislators and administrators who fail to listen and support us. College students should not be seen as a revenue that can be mined. It's imperative that we fully fund the entire education spectrum; pre-k through 20, cradle to career. I believe that the only way we can freeze tuition this biennium for all universities and community colleges is to allocate 1 Billion for Public University Support Fund, 787 million for Community College Support Fund, and 252 million for Oregon Opportunity Grant. Scholarships and grants can offset the increasing cost of higher education. As the amount of scholarships and grants continue to stay the same or even decrease, we will see a future where only a small portion of the lower class escape the cycle of poverty while the wealthy stay wealthy because only they can afford a college education.

Sincerely,

Emily Ma

Hello Ways and Means Committee, my name is Alona Arneson. I am here as not only a constituent but also as a transfer student at the University of Oregon, studying as a major in Political Science, with a double minor in Nonprofit Administration and Spanish. I actively urge this committee to fund the Public University Support Fund at 1 billion dollars.

The primary purpose of my testimony today is due to the adverse circumstances that my family and I have faced, leading me to be the first member of my family to attend higher education. The fact that I am here today, speaking to all of you, is an opportunity that has been manifested through hard work, countless hours of scholarship applications and substantial loans. That being said, the cycle of poverty that has consumed my family still consumes me today.

I take out over \$8,000 dollars a year---just to simply maintain my position as a student at the University of Oregon. Though this may seem minuscule in comparison to the loan burden of others, I suffer long term financial consequences so my family can sustain short term survival. I have no familial support. I have no money to put towards these loans. I will likely walk out of this collegiate experience with over \$40,000 in loans, with no ability to pay them back.

My family of six has gone two weeks without toilet paper, on multiple accounts. We no longer have the “luxury” of garbage disposal services because that is how much weight \$100 has to us. They are unable to offer any contribution to my educational pursuits and are often shamefully forced to ask me for financial assistance to cover basic living costs. With that context in mind: fall term of this year I was forced to take out an emergency loan for \$300 worth of textbooks, just so I could eat. I have had to pass on the purchase of supplementary class materials, just so I could pay my rent. I consistently have to carve time out of both my work and school schedule to access pantry services off campus. I work 25 hours a week, on top of a full-time school schedule, on top of extracurricular activities, on top of debilitating mental health

issues. I do not have the time or financial stability to miss work or school to be here, yet I am still here. I contribute and participate in my surrounding academic community despite these obstacles, as I am committed and passionate about the optimization of myself and my peer's education.

Though I am fairly new to the University, my experience has been delineated by my involvement in various classes, ASUO, two nonprofit organizations and contributing to campus publications/forums, all of these being fulfilling outlets of education that I will not be able to continue if this board chooses to vote no. This same experience of higher education that I so gratefully operate in today is in complete jeopardy if this funding level fails to pass. So I respectfully pose this question to the voting committee: how can one expect a student to optimize their education if they cannot afford the simple materials that act as a vehicle to that same learning? We want to contribute, we want to curate, we want to optimize this opportunity---but we cannot do so without the proper funding. Thank you for the time, please take this testimony into acute consideration when coming to a decision and most importantly, to approve the necessary ask of \$1 billion for higher education funding.

Hello Ways and Means members,

My name is Simone, and I'm a student attending Lane Community College. I'm writing you all to advocate for \$787 million for community colleges, as well as \$252 million for the Oregon Opportunity Grant and \$1 billion for Universities. This funding is crucial for me to complete my education.

I started at Lane in 2015 with the idea that I would finish in two years. Unfortunately, that was not my reality when I realized how expensive school was. There has been several terms I've needed to take off or take under 12 credits so I could work to pay for my education out of pocket. The problem with that is that I have an estimated family contribution (EFC) that does not match what my family can provide. They are working middle-class and have no investment capabilities to fund my pursuits, meaning that I'm left with no family support or financial aid. The cost of every class I take comes directly out of the money I make. This means I usually need to work two jobs to fully take care of myself and my schooling. Right now, I am working for with my sister in real estate as a secretary and waiting for more hours in a second job.

In addition to this, I have other living costs beyond my education. I need to pay for things like textbooks, food, and medication. I have type 1 diabetes, and even with health insurance, I need to pay for insulin and tools to regulate my health. It's gotten to a point where the urgency of paying for my living costs is taking more priority than the education I started to better my future. I don't think this is right. I'm so close to completing my associate's degree, but I may not even be able to enroll Spring term 2019 due to the current tuition rates. I thought community college was the more affordable option. I came to Lane hoping it would set me up to transfer to a four-year institution, and that starts to seem like a long-shot when the "affordable" option is still pricing me out.

I urge this committee to fund post-secondary education at the levels previously stated because students are in a crisis to completion. When I have to make a decision between my medications or tuition, something is not right. Please fund education to current service levels so

that students to not have to face these burdens. Thank you for reading my journey through school.

Best,

Simone Buck

Thank you for this opportunity to share with the Ways and Means Committee today. I'm Bryant Everett, current Chief of Staff for the Lane Community College Student Government pronouns She/Her, but more importantly I'm a full time returning Student. Otherwise known as Older or Nontraditional students and the ever increasing price of college will, if left unchecked, force me out.

Returning to school is by far one of the hardest decisions I've had to make in my life -- to take this step -- I had to give up the security and financial stability of a decent job. Community Colleges as a general whole are presented to us as institutions that allow those who wish to change their job path, or to garner higher certificates to improve our employment opportunities/standings. But with the rising price of tuition coupled with the increasing housing market increases (for rent etc) and all of the financial responsibilities levied on adults it can be overwhelming.

Between childcare, housing, food, and all of the other necessities in our general age the concept of choosing tuition or books over providing for families and for our lives is a decision that will place school at the bottom of the bucket. This however, is also not a choice, though I worked a decent job and got by. The compounding stress of working from paycheck to paycheck in a position that I abhorred slowly eroded my mental abilities and health in a variety of ways. In this similar situation many of us turn to smoking, alcoholism, and just as many terrible life choices.

Putting this into perspective look at the cost of Childcare, monthly childcare costs without deferral or state assistance is up to \$1400 a month in Oregon, per the March 2018 Oregon Market Price Study. Housing? A \$1000 a month. Food? If I'm frugal \$200 or \$250 a month. Medications and healthcare? There is no chance that I can afford insurance in my current existence. But without insurance my life necessary medications cost between \$150-\$200 in a month. This doesn't account for vehicle, or utilities, or any other expenses and we're approaching \$3000 a month.

These expenses all come before we begin to consider investing in a future that is many years off. I personally am enrolled as a dual major in Biochemistry and Pre-Med, with the full intent of pursuing my MD. This future is one that I may not be able to financially or personally realize. To go to college, which may honestly save my life, holds the opportunity of getting a better job in a field that is affirming to who I am or wish to be. But this is gated behind ever increasing tuition, books, and fees that have been levied on the shoulders of students, which has been increasing year over year. It is within the power of the Joint Committee of Student Success and the Way and Means Joint Committee to work together for a fully funded educational system.

So it is in earnest that I urge you and your colleagues to invest 1 Billion for Public University Support Fund, 787 million for the Community College Support Fund, and 252 million for the Oregon Opportunity Grant. The budget that was put out this week would cause more student hardship by pricing them out of continuing their educations, leaving them in debt, oft without degrees. Legislators or Administrators cannot treat tuition increases as normal revenue sources. We are being sidled with these debts, seen as cash cows, instead of as investments in the State's Future.

From: [Laura Pilkington](#)
To: [waysandmeans budget](#)
Subject: Written Testimony
Date: Thursday, March 21, 2019 5:46:58 PM

> Dear Committee Members:

>

> My name is Laura Pilkington and I serve on the public policy committee for the Oregon Association for the Education of Young Children and work for the Alliance for Equity in Montessori Education.

>

> I urge you not to cut funds for Early Childhood Education or other programming that supports the wraparound services for children and their families.

>

> Please at least maintain current funding levels for early education funding as we know so many families rely on some subsidy to pay for care for their children while parents work. As I am sure you have heard on your statewide tour, an increase in funding, particularly for programs like preschool promise, would be of benefit to many children and families.

>

> Thank you for your work on behalf of young children and families in the state of Oregon.

>

> Sincerely,

>

> Laura Pilkington, M.A., M.Ed.

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>

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>

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> Sent from my iPhone

Health Department

March 21, 2019

State Budget Community Hearing
Portland Community College - Cascade
MAHB 104 Auditorium
5514 N. Albina Ave. Portland, OR.

Good evening Co-Chairs Johnson, Steiner Hayward, Rayfield, and members of the Committee, my name is Kim Toevs and I am the Director for Adolescent Sexual Health Equity and STD/HIV/HCV Programs at Multnomah County Health Department. I am here today to support additional investments in public health to ensure our local public health authorities have the capacity to address the rising number of reportable diseases and environmental health threats, and that we continue to prevent the leading causes of death and disease in Oregon.

We needed the influx of more state funds to support core public health functions-- before the modernization funding of this past biennium our state was 46th out of 50 for per capita public health funding in U.S. While the national Affordable Care Act and the Oregon health care reform activities have helped increase Oregon access to clinical health care, public health has different core responsibilities to prevent disease and poor health outcomes and to promote healthy communities: we protect clean air, food, and water. We promote healthy choices in nutrition, exercise, injury prevention, tobacco use, sexual health, family planning, violence prevention. We provide data and technical support to policy makers about how to change laws, policies, workplaces, built neighborhood environments to increase health, especially to lower income folks and folks of color who have a higher burden of infectious and chronic diseases and injuries.

Specific examples of projects we have implemented in the tricity region with the first 18 months of funding: We've increased our capacity to use data regionally to identify health issues and outbreaks and to understand who has them, where, and why. This is important for the resurgence of old fashioned infections like syphilis or vaccine-preventable measles as well as for newer diseases like Ebola or Zika.

We are working on outbreak and emergency management plans for diseases like Hepatitis A that have spread quickly through homeless populations elsewhere in the US.

We're gathering information from health care partners and community members about latent TB and Hepatitis C to improve a coordinated system to prevent, test, and effectively treat folks at highest risk.

I urge you to fund the Public Health Advisory Board's plan to continue to close the gap on public health funding for Oregon residents, so that all residents, regardless of their zip code or county, receive the same minimum threshold of quality public health services.

Thank you for the opportunity to talk with you today,

Kim Toevs, MPH

Director for Adolescent Sexual Health Equity and STD/HIV/HCV Programs
Multnomah County Health Department

From: [Derek Lund](#)
To: [waysandmeans budget](#)
Subject: Budget: Education
Date: Thursday, March 21, 2019 7:48:17 PM

Hello,

My name is Derek Lund, and I go to Reynolds High School. I'm writing you because I can't see my school and other schools around Oregon be stripped even further without having my voice be heard. It seems that ever since I've been in elementary school, I've had to sit through teacher after teacher telling us that the budget is getting cut next year, while we can barely afford the programs we currently have. This year's proposed budget would end up costing my district up to 10 million dollars.

To offset this, there will have to be massive teacher layoffs. I have been in classes of 40 students and more and it's difficult to say the least. Teachers cannot possibly give individual attention to everyone, often leaving less vocal, struggling students behind. It can be impossible to focus on learning when one small disturbance and reaction can lead to the entire class erupting in noise. Since teachers can't deal with disputes, school officers are called more often to handle students that lash out. All of these things disadvantage not only students who actively want to learn, but also the students who need the most support and encouragement to focus on school. Cuts like these only increase the amount of students ending up in jail rather than college. All of these things could become the norm with this proposal.

But let's be honest, our education system is not some perfect utopia under threat. Oregon is already failing its students. Only 35% of 11th graders were meeting the math benchmark in 2017. And in 2016, our graduation rates were the third lowest in the entire country. And how can we expect students to want to go to schools that more resemble zoos or prisons than places of learning? At a moment when it's clear that we need a massive investment in our students, when we're giving some of the biggest tax breaks in the nation to corporations like Intel and Nike, a budget proposal like this is embarrassingly shameful.

Don't put corporations above students like me.

Thank you,

Derek Lund

From: [Londa Sundin](#)
To: [waysandmeans budget](#)
Subject: Testimony to support education
Date: Thursday, March 21, 2019 8:30:43 PM

Hello,

My name is Londa Sundin and I have lived in Oregon my entire life. I am proud to have raised two children in the wonderful part of Portland called Parkrose. I also work at an elementary school in Parkrose and have seen first hand how budget cuts have hurt our learning community.

Since I started working in the Parkrose School District in 2003 I have seen the loss of physical education classes in the elementary schools, the drastic cut of hours for most educational assistants to only part time and class sizes skyrocketing since there is no money to hire more teachers. The Parkrose School Board valiantly tries to make the best with fewer and fewer state dollars and currently is facing a 1.9 million dollar shortfall for next year. I can't even begin to think what this means for our schools and for the families in Parkrose.

I know you have many worthwhile causes to consider but I urge you to please make education a priority.

Thank you for your time,
Londa Sundin

From: [Anne Berblinger](#)
To: [waysandmeans budget](#)
Subject: electronic version of my testimony at the Portland Hearing 3/21/19
Date: Thursday, March 21, 2019 8:39:07 PM

Testimony by Anne Berblinger
Gales Meadow Farm
Gales Creek, Oregon 97116
Oregon Legislative Joint Ways and Means Committee
March 21, 2019

My name is Anne Berblinger. My husband Rene' and I are starting our 20th season as owners and operators of Gales Meadow Farm in Gales Creek, western Washington County. We grow more than 300 varieties of organic garden starts, vegetables, herbs, and fruit and sell our products directly to consumers through sales to chefs and at farmers markets

In a former incarnation, I worked in economic development throughout Oregon and rural northern California. Because of that role, I served on advisory committees to a number of Oregon Higher Education public service programs. I "retired" from my day job in 2007, and since then, I have been a full time farmer. I continue to serve as an advisor to Extension and other public service programs. It's a way to share what I have learned from a 36-year career in economic development and almost 20 years of farming. I currently serve on the Board of the Institute of Portland Metropolitan Studies, the Oregon Department of Agriculture's Specialty Black Grant Advisory Committee, and the Oregon Sea Grant Advisory Council, as well as the advisory committee for the OSU Center for Small Farms and Community Food Systems, and on the Board of the North Willamette Horticulture Society, which is staffed by OSU extension personnel. Believe me, time is among a farmer's most important assets. I would not dream of spending the time it takes to go to meetings, participate in conference calls, review and comment on proposed research, and read and write countless emails, if I did not find these programs incredibly valuable to our own farm, to the statewide community of small farmers, and to the health and life quality of all Oregonians.

Before we had even made the decision to commit ourselves to farming, we talked to Brian Tuck, an Extension Agent who was then serving small farms in the Portland metro area (He is now in the Mid-Columbia). He was so encouraging that the next thing we knew, we had gone into debt to buy a tractor. There was no turning back.

We got so much help from OSU Extension as we started out, and we continue to learn new thing from them all the time. We have attended the Small Farms Conference every year since it started, and the North Willamette Horticulture Society meeting for about ten years now. These are cost-effective opportunities for farmers to connect with professors and other experts to learn about recent research. Whether it's weed control, marketing, environmentally sound pest management, cover crops, or bigger issues with our food system, we can always count on learning something new and helpful at these meetings. Extension also offers two programs for beginning farmers: the intensive business planning "Growing Farms" classes, and Small Farms School. I wish we had had these when we were getting started.

Even better, we have had opportunities to participate in research. Nick Andrews, who developed the Organic Fertilizer Calculator, sat next to me at our farm computer to show me how to use an early version. Years later, he came back to our farm and showed us how to take a sample of covers crop biomass and use his Organic Cover Crop Calculator. Nick is now engaged in an ongoing research project called CropTime. There are currently 20 models completed which will accurately predict the harvest date for vegetables based on degree days, a measure of accumulated heat. CropTime also has models for when weeds will set seed, so we know the last possible day to get rid of them before they start creating problems for the future. Fifty models will be on line within a year or two, and more after that, based on input from farmers.

We have worked closely with Nick over the years and we are thrilled that he is now leading the establishment of Oregon State University's Organic Extension program. We would like to see this program robustly staffed and provided with an abundance of resources for research and outreach. The Organic Extension program has recently undertaken a project to develop Oregon's winter vegetable industry, funded by the USDA Specialty Crops Block Grant program. Organic Extension is also doing research on cover crop suitability and performance, and staffing the establishment of a Western States Cover Crop Council, in cooperation with USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

We have participated in variety trials for the Northern Organic Vegetable Improvement Coalition and the Culinary Breeding Network. These initiatives are all about helping us grow more delicious vegetables. They could not happen without the enthusiastic participation of OSU extension. The Dry Farming Collaborative, led by Extension Agent Amy Garrett, is helping us conserve water today and prepare for a drier, hotter future. There could not be a better example of grass roots research than the Dry Farming Collaborative.

I was invited to offer my "small farmer" views to this hearing, but I want to close with a bigger picture. I hope that this Committee finds a way to provide more resources for research (particularly collaborative research with farmers and other stakeholders) through all of the Universities' Public Service Programs. We need to learn more and get more useful guidance about environmentally sound pest management; building climate change resilience in crops, livestock, and seafood systems; water quality and availability; fire resilience and resistance; workforce development and security; and community health and resilience. Ag and Forestry Extension, Sea Grant, the Institute for Portland Metropolitan Studies, and the other public service programs are the best investment we can make to this end.



where great stories begin™

March 21, 2019

To: The Honorable Co-Chairs Johnson, Steiner Hayward and Rayfield
Members of the Ways and Means Committee

From: Samira Godil
Executive Director
Reach Out and Read Oregon
5038300510

Subject: Education Budget, SB 5015

For the record, my name is Samira Godil, Executive Director, Reach Out and Read Oregon. Reach Out and Read is a national evidence-based, early learning program in which books are incorporated into clinics and well child exams from infancy to age 5. Reach Out and Read leverages the health care system to improve educational outcomes, making the program impactful and sustainable.

Reach Out and Read is a simple and effective model. At every well child visit Pediatricians and Family physicians, who are trusted people of authority

- **Encourage/educate** parents/caregivers to read together at home as they are their child's first and most important teacher.
- **Give a new book** to the child to take home and keep.
- **Provide resources** for literacy activities with their children

Currently, Reach Out and Read Oregon serves approximately 86,000 children through 170,000 well-child visits. We have 138 program sites and utilize over 1,200 volunteer medical providers and staff.

I thank you for the current investment of \$50,000, which is part of the Department of Education budget. I humbly request an additional investment of \$250,000 which is needed to continue our current program and expand to serve additional 5,0000 children.

This investment will improve equity and increase kindergarten readiness on a statewide scale, enhancing the impact of your investments in K-12.

Thank you very much for your support

From: [John wolf](#)
To: [waysandmeans budget](#)
Subject: ways and means testimony - 3/21/19 Written testimony for John Wolf, Portland
Date: Thursday, March 21, 2019 9:45:29 PM

Name: John Wolf, 4616 SE Portland, OR

Topic: K-12 Education Funding

I am writing to request increased funding for Oregon schools. I have two children who attend Lewis elementary. My wife and I have become increasingly involved at our children's school, both to remain engaged in their educational development, but also in large part as a result of the increasing class sizes due to a continued reduction in education services. This school year Lewis elementary saw a change in funding which resulted in 3 lost FTE, including 1 homeroom teacher and our technology instructor. This was despite no reduction in total enrollment, which is approximately 390 students. The funding reduction has translated to our daughter's second grade class size to increase from 24 to 30! There are daily challenges related to the sheer number of students, large academic spread, and repeat daily disruptive behaviors. Students are acting out for attention/ students not enjoying school due to lack of attention from their teacher. On multiple occasions activities attempted around a lesson plan have been pushed to a later date due to disruptive behavior exacerbated by the number of kids. A specific example: during a skittles math activity kids were asked to predict the number of skittles and color combinations they might encounter, then calculate how close they came to the right prediction. My wife was given 6 students to work with in the hallway while the rest of the class stayed with their teacher in the class. The small group in the hall was able to successfully complete the activity; however, the group with the remaining 24 students got as far as passing out the bags; having to push the activity to a later date due to the sheer volume of kids and time required to complete the assignment.

Due to the large class sizes hallways are often used as overflow space or to find a quiet place to work; however, with students walking to and from activities, and other classes doing the same it is quite challenging to find a quiet space to concentrate. Standard assessments that take place during regular classroom hours are repeatedly disrupted by other students as there is a lack of support staff to assist with managing the classroom during testing. Our teacher shared with us during conferences that when she was performing a reading assessment with our daughter she had to stop three times due to noise and interruption. Our daughter scored poorly and struggled to concentrate so she attempted at a later date to find she was reading above 2nd grade level. Teachers are expected to pull children aside, inside a classroom packed with kids, and perform assessments all while trying to keep their class on task.

Our youngest child started school this past year but my wife, who has a doctorate degree in Physical Therapy, decided not to add hours as a result of feeling like she needed to spend time in the classroom to help out our school. We are a small, tight knit community with a number of parent volunteers but we can only do so much. We are not trained educators- we need funding for more teachers. We currently do not even have an EA in our school to assist with our large classroom sizes. There is a child in

our daughter's 2nd grade class who is unable to recite her ABCs or recognize all of her letters, while others are reading well above 2nd grade level. How is one teacher supposed to meet the needs of the class?

These class sizes almost certainly guaranty that not only will we see children left behind, failing to meeting academic benchmarks, but that our best and brightest will not see their full potential as they are limited by the lack of key instructional time and being challenged to reach their full capabilities.

During this year's budget development process, you have a choice. To investment in the future of Oregon and increase funding for Oregon schools or set our state on a path for continued struggles which have resulted in Oregon having the 6th largest class size in the country and ranked as the 2nd lowest states in graduation rate.

I thank you for your time and the opportunity to be heard, and I hope that you consider my input for an increase in school funding.

From: [Christine Gustafson](#)
To: [waysandmeans budget](#)
Subject: Written Testimony
Date: Friday, March 22, 2019 8:26:07 AM

My name is Chris Gustafson and my grandchildren attend Whitman Elementary School where I am the PTA president. I am the Library Media Specialist at Richmond Elementary School. Both schools are in southeast Portland. I'm here to urge the legislature to fully fund Oregon Schools.

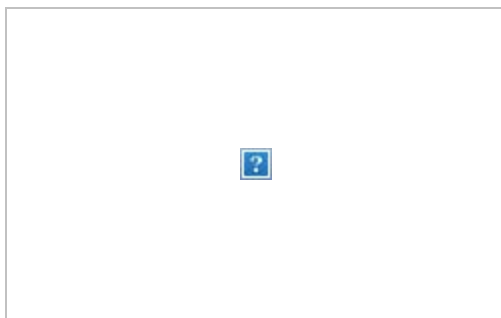
I was a classroom teacher and then Library Media Specialist for many years in Seattle, and when I moved to Portland I was shocked by the short school year and the large class sizes. But I worry most about the lack of full time, qualified school librarians, who have teaching certificates and library certification.

Thirty-four recent statewide library impact studies conclusively show the positive benefits in reading, writing, and even math for students who are served by full time, qualified school librarians. Every student, but especially those who have been historically underserved, benefits from the big ideas of the school library - reading promotion and information literacy. School librarians are the ones who teach our students and staff about trustworthy sources and how to identify fake news. They educate about digital citizenship at all levels. Often, they are the locus of innovative technology use in a school.

School libraries staffed by full time, qualified librarians hold up mirrors for students to make sense of their own experiences and windows for student to understand and empathize with the experiences of others. They are places of refuge and belonging.

If we were finally able to fully fund our schools, we could provide full time, qualified school librarians in well-stocked school libraries in every school.

<https://www.kappanonline.org/lance-kachel-school-librarians-matter-years-research/>



Why school librarians matter: What years of research tell us

www.kappanonline.org

DEBRA E. KACHEL (dkachel@antioch.edu;
[@SchLibAdvocate](#)) is an affiliate faculty for
Antioch University Seattle's K-12 Library Media
Endorsement program and an adjunct
instructor for McDaniel College's School

Chris Gustafson
Richmond Japanese Immersion Elementary School
Tuesdays, Wednesday mornings, Thursday

Michael Lopes Serrao
Ways & Means Testimony
March 21st, 2019

- My name is Michael Lopes Serrao and I am the superintendent of the Parkrose School District in NE Portland. I am here representing our students, staff and our greater community. As superintendent I have spoken throughout the school year of my optimism of this legislative body to finally bring quality stable funding to our state. This is after the loss of 20% of our Parkrose staff and 30 days of school that have been furloughed over the past 10 years. For our current seniors, that is a loss of 30 days of instruction simply because we don't have the funds to operate.
- The current Co-Chairs' budget has humbled my optimism and brings us a reality of close to 2 million dollars in cuts to balance our 19-20 school year budget. The following year is close to 3 million in shortfall. Based on this budget, our district is looking to cut:
 - Multiple days of school
 - Cutting Certified, classified and administrative staff (6 teaching positions, 20 educational assistant positions, and one administrator
 - For context, a day in Parkrose is about \$115,000 and a staff is approximately the same. If you simply looked at it from the days perspective, if we were only to cut days, that would be 18 days of school.
- Hopefully, my candle of hope is only flickering and your team will see this continued track of underfunding schools only leads to rising social costs in the future. It's essential we seek a \$10.4 billion budget, including a School Improvement Fund our district would prioritize investments (Repair) These are just a few of many needs:
 - Add Physical Education teachers at our elementary schools. It's the law, but never have had the funds hire.
 - Add counseling support (we currently have one counselor for a Middle School of 800 students)
 - Fund a full school year without cut days
- Please strongly consider how you find a way to make an investment budget of 10.4 billion a reality. Our system faces exceptional cuts that are difficult to mend in the future. We need you to act now on behalf of our kids.

From: [Ariana Jacob](#)
To: [waysandmeans budget](#)
Subject: Now is the time to fix education funding
Date: Friday, March 22, 2019 8:58:18 AM

Dear Members of Oregon Legislature,

My Name is Ariana Jacob and I am one of over 1000 adjunct/part time faculty that teach at Portland State University each year. I also work with our adjunct faculty union, PSUFA and I see the high levels of poverty that our part time faculty and our students must endure. I see the way that when our public universities and colleges don't get enough state funding there are 2 places where they make up that missing money: more tuition hikes for students and more cuts in adjunct jobs. That isn't right, and it doesn't need to be that way.

At Portland State adjunct faculty who are lucky enough to be able to work the maximum we are allowed still only make just a little bit over \$20 thousand dollars a year and we do not get access to health insurance. To illustrate the levels of poverty that this creates, at Christmas the union offered our adjunct faculty meal tickets to a soup kitchen, and all 20 of those meal tickets were claimed in just a couple hours. People don't usually think of our professors as people who are eating at soup kitchens over the holidays, but they are. Our higher education system is broken if it relies on faculty living in deep poverty in order to balance our schools' budgets.

Making the most vulnerable people in higher education, our students and part time faculty, pay the price for our state having a broken tax system that doesn't adequately fund public education is unjust, short sighted and will not build a strong future for Oregon.

In our state election last fall we voted in progressive super majorities in both chambers of the Oregon Legislature, and we expected that would mean we would be able to reform corporate tax rates and finally fund our public education system from preschool through higher ed. That is what we are asking you to do, we need major change to our tax system, and you can do it now.

We need at least 2 billion more in funding just for for k-12 and we need at least 1 billion more than that to make sure that our public community colleges and universities don't continue to degrade into corporate institutions that exploit the very people they are meant to serve.

Please take bold action to reform our corporate tax rate this year and fully fund our education system. Now is the time and you are the people who can do it. We will help in any way we can. Let's get this right now while we have the chance. Thank you.

Ariana Jacob

From: [Chris Miller](#)
To: [waysandmeans budget](#)
Subject: Concerned Oregonian and DD Services
Date: Friday, March 22, 2019 9:07:26 AM

Hello,

My name is Christopher Miller and I am a behavior professional, working for an agency that provides support to people with disabilities. I have several years of experience working in this field, and have had the benefit of knowing and advocating for people with disabilities since childhood. I am writing because I am gravely concerned with the future of DD services. As it stands right now, there is a nearly 48% turnover rate in people providing direct support to people with disabilities. It should be noted that this is an average, and there are some cases in which people with disabilities have NO access to direct support.

What is direct support? Well it is literally people doing a multitude of life saving, safety ensuring, and independence giving tasks with and for people with disabilities. Everyone with a disability is different, so these tasks are immensely diverse and require intelligent, educated, flexible, and enduring professionals to do the work adequately and safely. These requirements produce a high standard in workforce, however, pay for Direct Support Professionals does not come even close to reflecting that standard.

Unfortunately, average wages for DSPs land somewhere between \$13.13 and \$13.86 per hour. This is barely over minimum wage. I often hear DSPs who leave say, they simply can't support their families (especially when considering their skills open doors to better paying jobs). In fact, I have an interesting story from my own life that reflects this belief:

My wife had surgery last year, and in one of the meetings with the doctor prior the surgery, we were discussing cost and repayment plans. In this discussion, the doctor asked what I did for a profession. I told him what I do and he commenced to tell me his own story of providing direct support after obtaining his bachelor's degree. He told me that he enjoyed the work, but that it didn't pay enough, and later decided to further his education and eventually enter med school.

As I listened to the story that my wife's doctor told, two things stood out to me:

- 1) He stated that an unlivable wage was the primary reason for him leaving.
- 2) He indicated that no one should consider such work a career, since it was so much more demanding than what could be compensated for.

I'm sad to say that this doctor's assessment of the situation is painfully common, and what I have seen over the years is that it is exceptionally difficult to keep talented people working with people with disabilities.

So what does this mean? What does it matter? Well, for one, it means that we're actually spending copious amounts money training new people to perform the work. More importantly, it means the quality of life for people receiving these services suffers. It means that perhaps the most significantly marginalized people in society, continue to be marginalized. It means this massive and invisible group of people must be supported only by those desperate enough for any amount of money or generous enough to live in poverty.

So what can we do about it? Well, there are several advocacy groups that have worked hard to propose methods to fix this problem to Oregon's legislature. Bottom line, it's going to mean paying attention to these groups and working with them on a spending bill. I know that there are a lot of important issues that require the state of Oregon's attention and money, but I think the time is now to look at what is going on in DD services. DDS is in a crisis NOW! Consideration of people with disabilities and the people that support them cannot wait any longer.

Thank you so much to anyone that takes the time to read this email and consider what I have said. I am truly concerned about the future of people with disabilities, and I truly believe the system that supports them is on the verge of collapse. Please, don't let people with disabilities continue to be marginalized.

Sincerely,

Christopher Miller

--

Christopher D. Miller

Behavior Assessment Coordinator
Cognitive & Behavioral Health Services
Partnerships in Community Living, Inc.
Office: (503) 838-2403
Cell : (503) 208-1966



"Shoot for the moon. Even if you miss, you'll land among the stars."
-Les Brown

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From: [Victoria Clark](#)
To: [waysandmeans budget](#)
Subject: Education Budget - PCC Cascade Hearing
Date: Friday, March 22, 2019 10:36:36 AM

Hello, my name is Victoria Clark. I am a senior at Reynolds High School, and I am emailing you because we are once again facing the threat of our education budget being slashed. The hearing ended before my name was called to speak.

You might be thinking: "She's a senior. These budget cuts won't affect her." Well, when it was announced to a classroom full of seniors that we may have to cut another \$10 million from our district budget over the next two years, we felt like we had been slapped in the face. Budget cuts within Reynolds School District seem to have become an annual occurrence. We know all too well how it feels to be told that programs will be cut, teachers will be laid off, class sizes will increase, and class days will be removed from the calendar.

I may be a senior but graduating won't save me from feeling the drastic effects of these cuts. At a K – 12 level, it affects my friends, my family, and my community. At a higher education level, it affects me. I'm planning on going to PCC in the fall and our community colleges are also facing severe consequences due to this budget. You cannot claim to put students first when you put our education last. When you cut funding for our future, you are telling us that we don't matter.

Education is an investment. Not a cost. You act as if we cannot afford to increase our budget, but the truth is we cannot afford to decrease our budget, let alone keep it the same. Our education system is already in shambles due to 30 years of disinvestment. The lives of our students and our educators are at stake. By forcing funding cuts, you are robbing us of our future and destroying lives. We need bigger and better education funding across the board so we can receive the education we deserve.

I ask you this: How, in good conscience, can you possibly move forward with a budget that doesn't fully fund education? We deserve so much more.



Volunteers of America®

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March 21, 2019

The Honorable Betsy Johnson

The Honorable Elizabeth Steiner Hayward

The Honorable Dan Rayfield

And

Members of the Joint Ways and Means Committee

I am Kay Toran, President/CEO of Volunteers of America Oregon. I am here today to advocate for increased funding to support the salaries, wages, and benefits of the employees of our agency. We have reached a critical phase in the delivery of our services in that the continued increase in the cost of living in our community, our city and in our state, plus the inability to offer the higher wages that our government agencies and larger medical providers are able to provide, makes it challenging to recruit and retain the highly qualified staff that is required in our service delivery system.

VOA Oregon, as a broad-based human services agency, we operate a comprehensive array of programs in three areas: Children and Family, Treatment and Prevention, and Social Enterprises. Our services include a developmental early childhood program that includes parenting services; a domestic violence program, adult day services for the frail elderly, and a comprehensive addiction treatment program that includes residential and outpatient treatment for substance abuse disorders, problem gambling and mental health treatment.

To effectively deliver the evidence-based and research-based services it is essential that we have highly qualified and trained staff. To recruit and retain this level of commitment to our employees, a competitive compensation scale is essential.

For VOA Oregon and other providers in our sector to accomplish that objective it is essential for the Oregon State Legislature to increase funding to support our work.

We have demonstrated in the past our ability to achieve outstanding outcomes with the highly vulnerable populations we serve. To continue to do so requires our ability to hire and retain highly qualified staff.

The work and outcomes we deliver as an agency not only helps the families and adults that we serve get their lives back on track, but it also provides for a safe and thriving community.

VOA Oregon is committed to providing the restoration and rehabilitation services to help individuals and families live productive lives and contribute to our community. We are also committed to ensuring that our efforts positively impact our entire community.

VOA Oregon strongly encourages you to approve increased funding to support the compensation of behavioral health employees in our organizations.

Healthy individuals! Healthy families! Healthy communities!

Thank you,

Kay Toran

Administration Office

3910 SE Stark Street
Portland, Oregon 97214
Phone: (503) 235-8655
Fax: (503) 239-6233
Web: www.voaoor.org

Volunteers of America
Oregon is an independent
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that provides human
services to populations
in need.

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Helping America's most vulnerable®



March 21st, 2019

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To: The Honorable Betsy Johnson
The Honorable Elizabeth Steiner Hayward
The Honorable Dan Rayfield
and Members of the Joint Ways and Means Committee

My name is Theresa Willett. I'm the Program Director at the non-profit VOA Women's Residential Center. We've been around since 1991 and are the only treatment center in the state that exclusively serves women who are involved in the corrections system. Our women all have SUDs, primarily opioid and methamphetamine related. Ninety percent have a mental health diagnosis as well. All have suffered some combination of trauma, homelessness, generational poverty, foster care involvement, domestic violence, sexual abuse. Many are parents.

To work successfully with this high-risk population, our staff must possess specialized skills. Our counselors must hold master's degrees and CADIC licensure and have expertise in trauma, mental health, SUD, and women's issues. They must be able to function and adapt as skilled professionals in a high-stress, ever-changing environment that presents daily, and sometimes hourly, challenges. The learning curve for new counselors is steep and constant. It takes about a year for a counselor to master the skills and abilities required to do this job.

The starting salary for this position is minimal. Once a counselor has 1-2 years of experience working with us, they may apply for a position with our competitors—government agencies and the larger non-profit medical providers—who are able to offer 25-35% higher compensation. That does not include PERS. This results in an almost constant turnover of staff and chronic staff shortages.

This dynamic is devastating to our ability to offer a stable environment in which high quality direct services may be provided to this high-needs specialty population. Because we can't keep a counseling staff, we can't keep our beds full. This has been extremely financially destabilizing to the extent that it threatens our ability to offer this much needed service to our community. Oregon has one of the most serious drug problems in the country and is almost the most challenged around access to treatment. Our communities cannot afford to leave treatment beds unoccupied because we aren't able to compensate our dedicated professionals adequately.

Thank you for your attention and time.

Theresa Willett, Program Director
Volunteers of America, Oregon
Women's Residential Center

From: [Joann Deutsche](#)
To: [waysandmeans budget](#)
Subject: Fully fund DD services
Date: Friday, March 22, 2019 5:24:05 PM

I live in Portland and my zip is 96210. I have an adult son who happens to have Down Syndrome. He resides in a loving foster care home but I see him every other weekend. He goes to an Albertina Kerr day program. His life is good and it is due to all the services we have, especially here in Multnomah County. Thank you!!!!

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Kristine Merritt](#)
To: [waysandmeans budget](#)
Subject: Letters from SPARC Members - DSP Wages
Date: Saturday, March 23, 2019 8:30:35 AM
Attachments: [SPARC Letters 3-21-19](#)
[FundDSPs2019.pdf](#)

Hi,

The Self Protection Advocacy & Rights Council (SPARC) would like to share some letters about the importance of funding living wages for DSP's. Please see the attached letters.

SPARC Members live in Polk, Marion, Linn & Benton Counties. You can find out more about SPARC by visiting our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/pclSPARC/?ref=bookmarks>

SPARC is a self advocacy group facilitated by Partnerships in Community Living, Inc. (PCL). PCL is an Oregon not-for-profit organization dedicated to expanding the horizons and enhancing the quality of lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Thank you,

--

Kristine Merritt

Individualized Service

Service Team Coordinator

Partnerships In Community Living, Inc.

PO Box 129

Monmouth, OR 97361

cell 541-230-0453

Ph (503) 838-2403 ex. 746

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Expand the horizons and enhance the quality of life of those we support.

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To whom this may concern,

Having a consistent and reliable staff improves my way of life because I'm not constantly worrying of having a staff.

When staff have to leave due to wages its sad and frustrating for me, I have to then start the process and trust in a new staff all over.

My staff and I go out and do; Sporting events/practices, social events, bowling, strengthening friendships, laundry, humane societies, and day trippers.

Thank you for your time,
Mindy Collins

To whom it may concern,

Having the same staff allows for greater and stronger bonds to be created. There is no thoughts of "who is going to be here for the next three months." There would be less tradeoff of staff if there was more funding. Trust is easier to give to someone who is consistently around. You don't have to start fresh with a new staff if the same staff were around for the long haul.

□ □ □ □

1/10/15

Whom this may concern

I like to stay with my staff. &
They help me make my lunch for work,
take me to my doctors appointment
and eye doctor's appointments. They make
sure I take my meds. They make
sure I'm ~~sure~~ on time for
Spercs meeting or Day Trippers.

Thank-you for your time

Cleida Burcher

David A:

When there is a change in David's staff he seems to not take it so well. He has to start a new relationship with new staff that may take months. All with the ~~aware~~ awareness that if he establishes the new relationship it could be gone in a ~~notice~~ (moment).

There is a lot of turn over due to low wages. A low wage is great motivation to find a more lucrative job. A low wage also just adds on payday. You shouldn't have to look at your check after a month of long hours and be disappointed.

3-21-19

To Whom it Concern:

My name is Melinda Murphy, I live in Salem and I have support staff I ^{really} like ~~from~~ ~~from~~. I ~~have~~ ^{my} had staff that I ~~really like~~ ~~who~~ help me go and enjoy movies, do my Shopping, visit the Zoo; ^{see} sports events and support me to cook and keep my apartment clean.

When I have a staff change, ^{it} takes a while to get to know them and be comfortable around somebody new. I don't like to have staff quit to find a different job.

Melinda Murphy

To Whom it may concern
To the Ways and Means Committee:

The low wages creates very high turnover for people who are able to assist people with disabilities.

This causes people have a lot of fear for the disabled person and their families. Because they have to start over from the beginning and they don't always have enough people willing to work for the wage to cover all the people that need staff.

This causes an overload on the people that are willing to work with the disabled.

It also keeps people from being able to go to events, because they don't have the staff to take them. They miss birthday parties and other fun events that most people take for granted that they will get to go.

Ben

Benjamin Lohser
1149 DST Ind. OR 97351

When we have new staff they don't know me or what I like to do, what's important to me, my routines and sometime I miss out of getting to do those things. Staff that know me don't have to be told or trained on things I like to do, even when I'm home like meds + treatments. Staff that have work with me know what I like to eat, when I get ^{new} staff they cook stuff I don't like. I like having the same staff because I feel safe with them and we have fun too. I don't feel safe with new staff.

Cheryl Graham

Buddy Bodensatz

Milk Schwaartz

3/21/19

To whom it may Concer,

When a DSP leaves, it makes me
Sad. Some times they dont tell me
they are leaving.

I like staff to support me to
shop at Home Depot & WINKO.

I like staff to support me to
go to OSU Basketball game,
Baseball Games & Foot ball games.

I like staff to help me cook meals
& clean my home.

Thank You

Doug M O'Brien

To Whom it may concern: 3/21/2019

Build friendship with my staff.

I want to see my staff everyday.

I like my staff, they take me to the aquatic center and to the movies.

My staff and I walk to the park to get fresh air. My staff shows up to my house. My staff make me

happy, I trust them. Meeting new people is scary. I like to hug

my staff. I sing songs with my staff in the car. I go on daytrippers with my staff.

Thank you for your time,

Emily N Smith



I/DD Workforce on the Verge of Collapse



The health, safety and independence of over 30,000 Oregonians who experience intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) are threatened by critical shortages in the workforce that supports them. **Direct Service Professionals (DSPs) provide crucial supports to adults and children with I/DD including management of their medical needs, challenging behaviors, personal hygiene, support to maintain employment and make real connections in the community.** These incredibly dedicated and extensively trained individuals work for nonprofit entities and other agencies that operate as state partners, providing services that support people to live and work in communities across Oregon.

Today the need to invest in our DSPs is greater than ever!

The waiting list for residential services is growing.

- The capacity to serve children has decreased by 30% since 2017 due to a lack of providers and DSP staff available to cover homes safely.
- The waiting list for children seeking residential settings continues to grow.

High turnover rates for DSPs lead to repeated severance of the critical bonds between DSPs and the individuals they support.

- Based on a recent national staffing survey, Oregon's DSP turnover rate is 47.4%, compared to 43.8% nationally, as a result of low wages, long hours and increasing overtime.
- Though the work they do can be physically and emotionally challenging, hourly DSP wages average between \$13.13 and \$13.86 in Oregon, less than most fast food and warehouse jobs, severely hindering recruitment.

FUND the DSP WORKFORCE

Today, DSPs earn an average 111% (\$13.86 average) of minimum wage.

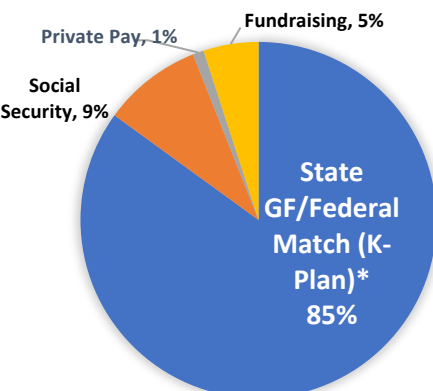
\$46.1M GF = Investment in DSPs \$15 average wage*

*Investment will result in an average wage of \$15 effective 10/1/19.

How the typical I/DD Residential Provider is funded:

85% - State GF/Federal Match: K-Plan Funds = 66% Federal + 34% State General Fund match
9% - Social Security, SSDI: Paid to individual supported for room and board = \$599 per month
5% - Fundraising: Includes grants and donations dedicated to housing costs
1% (or less) - Private Pay

*The current rate model used to fund community providers is based on a cost study conducted in 2007. To address this outdated model, DHS worked with stakeholders and consultants in 2018 to develop a methodology which uses the Oregon Needs Assessment tool and is based on a current cost study of provider expenses. This updated rate model reflects increases in actual cost and competitive DSP wages. Because those wages have not been adjusted for cost of living increases since 2009, full funding for the updated rate model is \$84 million.



From: [Sequoia](#)
To: [waysandmeans budget](#)
Subject: Portland Written Testimony from Sequoia Ranson
Date: Sunday, March 24, 2019 9:41:38 PM

My name is Sequoia Ranson and my two daughters attend Prescott Elementary school. Our Parkrose School District is one of the most diverse community in cultures and languages in the State. I am here to urge the legislature to fully fund Oregon schools.

My children and their amazing teachers have suffered years of DIS-investment and the fulfilling educational opportunities that I took for granted as I journeyed from K - Bachelor Degree are NOT being extended to my children. These include: Physical Education instruction, Art, Recess for more than 30 minutes a day and often indoors due to "inclement weather", clean classrooms and facilities, overworked & underpaid teachers, overworked Educational Assistants, and Administrators! My children's' teachers are filling in the missing financial support for the students which you as Legislators need to fund! As the Co-Chair for our elementary school's Parent Group, we constantly are being asked to supplement basic educational needs and experiences for our diverse student population. In addition, Parents are required purchase school and cleaning supplies throughout the year.

At your proposed budget, Parkrose will be facing \$1.9M in cuts for the next school year. For Parkrose, this is an equivalent of cutting 18 days of school or 18 teachers! In year two of the budget, it looks WORSE with an almost 3 MILLION shortfall! There is no real solution to cover this gap except to beg of you to approve more funding for our Parkrose schools! We are a very diverse community in cultures and languages

This year due to budget furlough days, my children are missing 5 days of school and their teachers, many of whom live in our community are losing 5 days of pay. They are BURNT OUT and in my humble opinion, recruitment of new teachers is negatively affected. My children along with ALL Parkrose students deserve to attend fully funded schools. Our school district has been limping along FAR too long and it is truly the children in our amazing community who suffer.

As a mother, full time employee, and community member; I with the support of my husband, family and "village" am doing absolutely ALL I can do personally to contribute time and money towards the education and educational experience for students in our elementary school. This is what I ask each of you to do as well. This is NO time for maintaining status quo or cutting budgets. Our children for generations have suffered ENOUGH! I plead for a RE-INVESTMENT in Oregon schools, all students and personally for my daughters, Stella (age 8) and Savannah (age 5).

With Regards,

Mrs. Sequoia M. Ranson

Dear Legislators,

Cascadia is one of Oregon's largest community behavioral health and integrated care organizations, with about 900 employees. We operate four health centers in Multnomah and Clackamas Counties, the Urgent Walk-in Clinic located in Southeast Portland, various residential and community-based services as well as services for individuals who are homeless. We estimate that we touch nearly 18,000 lives a year.

We are funded primarily through Medicaid and contracts with the state, county, and city.

Cascadia serves some of the community's most vulnerable individuals – they experience serious mental illness and mental health challenges; they may have a substance use or other addiction issue any of which can paralyze their lives and often the lives of their family. Many have no home or insufficient housing; others find themselves trapped in the revolving door of our justice system. Most are in need of multiple supports and consistent, trauma-responsive care – and that is what Cascadia offers them.

On average, and at any given time, each of our counselors has a caseload of about 70 clients. Unfortunately we have vacancies for these positions, consistently, and that means for those that stay, they have to increase their caseloads; serving more individuals with the same amount of time and resources. It's near impossible to provide adequate care when there is no consistency of clinicians or when caseloads are overloaded. Cascadia is not alone – retention of clinical staff is an issue across our community of behavioral health providers.

Our counselors are required to have a graduate degree yet their entry level starting salary is \$44,500. This salary makes it challenging to sustain livability in Portland. Not surprisingly, our turnover rate is high as people look for different positions at hospitals or private practice, or worse, they leave the field. Many of our employees work second jobs to make ends meet.

We need to do better for our employees and for those we serve. Our community needs the services provided by Cascadia and our sister agencies. The number of individuals and families experiencing homelessness is increasing, mental health concerns and addictions, especially opioid addiction, impact members of our community. We are not lacking in individuals who need services. Referrals are frequent and steady. And as Cascadia employees continue to do good work in this community and, every day, provide Whole Health Care, they deserve a wage that is reflective of the work they do and of their education level.

An increase in funding is essential to ensuring all Oregonians can access the care they need to flourish, and in some cases to just survive. The workforce providing that care deserve that same assurance. Please fund increased provider rates and efforts to build a strong behavioral health workforce for Oregon.

Thank you.

Beth Epps
Chief Clinical Officer
Cascadia Behavioral Healthcare