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March 4, 2021

To: Joint Subcommittee on Human Services; others

Re: I SUPPORT [HB 5003]...

It is my prayer, the Joint Subcommittee on Human Services support **[HB 5003]** without any restrictions and or encumbrances.

Much effort by Oregon is needed to prod the Federal Government for "flexibility" in Grant money, timeline expenditure requirements, associated with COVID-19 interferences.

The Commission for the Blind can fill you in on the needs for your immediate support on this matter.

Legislative relief is sought to restore the Governor's reductions in the General Fund for personal services and supplies stricken from the Commission's budget.

For your considerations:

A "**Restricted Use Fund**" should be constructed that is separate and distinct from the General Fund, solely for the Commission for the Blind. Biennium appropriations from the; General Fund, interest generated from balances, Grants and donations would be placed in this Fund.

I am concerned with the amount of Federal Funding the Commission for the Blind relies upon.

At some point in time, Federal money is going to dry-up. Our nation is carrying too much debt and at some point, "The Piper must and will be paid." It is time to start planning for this eventuality.

Are all State agencies compelled to assist the Commission for the Blind?

There is much work to be done to strengthen and reinforce vocational rehabilitation and Independent Living programs offered and managed by the Commission for the Blind.

It is also my prayer, the Joint Subcommittee on Human Services take the necessary and competent steps to convey my sincere gratitude, in a thorough and complete manner, to the Director of the Commission for the Blind; for a job done exceptionally well, considering the scant resources appropriated to enrich the lives of the Blind.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ David S. Wall

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