

Co-Chairs, members of the committee,

For the record, my name is Anastasia Godsey, and I work for Adult Protective Services in Hillsboro. I have worked for Oregon Department of Human Services for 17 years. I am writing to you today to ask you to prioritize funding critical essential services. Our last recession taught us that austerity measures only make economic recoveries longer and more painful, and we appreciate that the Co-Chairs budget doesn't propose major cuts.

I ask you that you consider the following when you make decisions on allocating ARPA funds:

?Equity: As you work to develop a final budget framework, impacted communities across Oregon have come together to urge you to prioritize federal funding from ARPA on those who were hurt most by COVID-19 and our corresponding recession: primarily Oregonians who identify as Black, Indigenous, and/or people of color, women; immigrants; and/or LGBTQ+.

?Fair Shot: As an SEIU member, I am proud that we are a member of the Fair Shot for Oregon Coalition. We believe that by prioritizing the policies included in The People's Budget, Oregon lawmakers will build an equity-based budget that ensures Oregon emerges stronger than before and is ready to weather future storms. This includes priorities like: investing in housing, paying essential frontline workers, and investing in broadband expansion for rural communities.

?Essential Worker Pay: It has been more than a year since the pandemic began and in that time, essential workers have kept Oregon safe. Oregon has consistently ranked among the states with the fewest COVID cases, and that's because of the workers who have showed up every day, worn masks, and kept our communities safe. Essential worker pay will stimulate Oregon's economy, help workers make ends meet, and show respect to the people who have kept our state going throughout the pandemic. As an Adult Protective Service Specialist and a mom, I've been struggling with balancing the need for me to go to the office on the days when I am a hotline screener and to go out in the community to meet with victims and perpetrators face-to-face on the days I am conducting investigations with the need to be home and to provide childcare for my 3 y.o. and 8 y.o.

?Investment in Universal Childcare: I am asking you to invest in affordable high-quality childcare, comprehensive afterschool programs and summer camps for all Oregon kids. Investing in our children is investing in our future!

Thank you for having this hearing and for taking my testimony.

Sincerely,

Anastasia Godsey
Portland, Oregon