

I am writing to request that the Ways and Means committee allocate funding from the state budget and from the American Rescue Plan Act to help save the Portland Children's Museum. The museum is an important educational and recreational resource for children in the Portland metro area as well as visitors from around the state and beyond.

The Portland Children's Museum is currently slated to close permanently on June 30th and financial troubles have been cited as the main reason for closing this 75 year old institution.

As a result of the closure, around 120 children will be displaced from their school or preschool care and over 50 good jobs will be lost from the Portland area. The PCM Board of Directors meeting minutes from February show that as little as \$500,000 is needed in funding to get through this calendar year.

I believe that funding from the state and the American Rescue Plan will significantly contribute to keeping the museum in operation. Please vote to allocate funds to keep the Portland Children's Museum and Opal Charter School open.