

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 resource for families 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.

On a personal note, my son Calvin is also your constituent. My husband Keith and I were holding off on letting him know about the closure, but he asked us about it yesterday. He was very upset. He asked why, and we told him it's hard times with Covid and they ran out of money.

He thought for a quiet few minutes, and then said "I want you to take me there tomorrow so I can give them the money in my piggy bank". Even the kids know that the solution is being able to give!

Best regards,
Felicite Lamb