

Co-Chairs, members of the committee,

For the record, my name is Louie Vidmar, and I work for the University of Oregon in Eugene. I have worked for the University for 7 years. I am also a UO alum, graduated in 2009. I am here 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.

My job is primarily IT support for the University, and there were a number of us who were required to be on campus throughout the pandemic. In-person checking out loaner computers to faculty and students alike, preparing classrooms for remote & hybrid learning experiences, sanitizing the loaner laptops, computer lab spaces, and such.

It probably goes without saying the work that custodial and facilities crews had to perform to make sure the campuses are as safe as possible. I am incredibly grateful for the work these brothers and sisters of mine did in the face of this pandemic. I ask that you please prioritize the passage of Essential Worker Pay for front line workers who put our lives on the line to serve the great state of Oregon during this unprecedented situation.

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

Sincerely,

Louie Vidmar
Eugene, OR