

Hello Co-Chairs Johnson, Steiner-Hayward, and Rayfield, and Vice Co-Chairs Girod, Gomberg, and Smith. My name is Molly Newhard and I am from Eugene, which is in Congressional District 4. I am here today to testify in support of The People's Budget, and in support of House Bill 5024, which allocates sufficient funding for essential sexual and reproductive health services in the Oregon Health Plan and the Reproductive Health Program.

I believe that Oregon's economic recovery should help 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 LGBTQ2SIA+. Investments that are rooted in racial, gender, and economic justice are what this moment calls for. Now is not the time for Oregon to save money or cut budgets.

Economists agree: stimulus packages work best when money is quickly moved into the economy. Our last recession taught us that austerity measures only make economic recoveries longer and more painful. As the Co-Chairs work to develop their final budget framework, impacted communities across Oregon have come together to urge you to prioritize federal funding from ARPA on The People's Budget.

Economic justice is integral to reproductive justice, and that's why I'm also asking you to prioritize HB 5024: In Oregon we pride ourselves on being ahead in reproductive healthcare policy, but there is no choice without access. Medicaid is a vital source of health coverage and a major funder of reproductive health services nationally. Approximately one in five women of reproductive age rely on Medicaid to access no-cost, critical reproductive health care such as birth control, life-saving cancer screenings, and maternity care. Family planning is a smart investment for Oregon taxpayers. In fact, the Contraceptive Care program, housed in the Reproductive Health Program in the Public Health Division, is one of the most cost-effective state programs; it saved the state \$22.8 million from the reduction in unintended pregnancy in 2017 alone.

By prioritizing the policies included in The People's Budget and the needed advancements in funding for sexual and reproductive healthcare and education, you will build an equity-based budget that ensures Oregon emerges stronger than before and is ready to weather future storms. Thank you for your time and the opportunity to give feedback.