

Submitter: Kim McCarty
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure: SB5506

Dear Joint Ways & Means Committee of Oregon,

Our state will be healthier, stronger, and more resilient when everyone has what they need to thrive. That's why I support the People's Budget—a clear set of policies and investments that will lift up our communities and strengthen the state by using a racial, gender, and economic justice framework.

The People's Budget includes smart, community-led policies, investments, and workforce supports to address systemic inequities in Oregon, including the Fair Shot Agenda:

Indigenous Language Justice—SB 612, SB 911
Reproductive Health and Access to Care—HB 2002
Stable Homes Homelessness Prevention Package—HB 5511, HB 2001, SB 611
In Defense of Humanity—SB 337, HB 2467

Key investments outlined in the People's Budget to advance immigrant justice, fix Oregon's broken public defense system, make childcare accessible and affordable, and many other important investments are not adequately funded under the Co-Chairs Budget Framework. Legislators must invest in communities now - rather than reserving even more revenue in our already strong and healthy rainy day fund.

I believe we need all of the investments outlined in the People's Budget because housing assistance, criminal justice reform, reproductive health, and language justice are all related issues. Please fully fund important immigrant justice programs such as the Oregon Worker Relief, Universal Legal Representation, and the Climate Change Fund. As the Executive Director of the Community Alliance of Tenants, I am especially concerned about rent assistance. Every day we hear from a family that will become homeless simply because they cannot pay the rent that month.

\$100M for Rental Assistance - Emergency rent assistance and eviction prevention resources at the community level allow swift and decisive intervention to prevent Oregon renters from falling into homelessness. If we don't invest in prevention efforts at scale, the cycle of displacement and eviction will overwhelm our homelessness response efforts.

We also need these investments:
\$261M In Defense of Humanity -

\$3.5M for Indigenous Language Justice -

\$10M to fully fund the Reproductive Health and Access to Care program at OHA -

Our communities are healthier and more resilient when we have strong systems of mutual care that include all of us.

I urge you to support the policies and investments in the People's Budget and the Fair Shot Agenda.

Sincerely,
Kim McCarty