

Date: April 08, 2023

Dear Co-Chairs Steiner and Sanchez, Co-Vice Chairs Girod, Gomberg, and Smith, and Members of the Committee,

My name is R. Mendez, and I live in Washington County

I ask that you fully fund all Oregon Worker Relief programs and related bills, including the Oregon Worker Relief Fund, the Climate Change Fund (HB 3124), the Home Fund (SB 918), and Universal Representation (SB 627).

Immigrants have always been part of the core fabric of our state. Immigrant and undocumented communities contribute to our collective prosperity, but are left out of the proposed state budget.

I support Oregon Worker Relief because there are many ways I have benefit from it. I lost my job on March 15th 2020 due to Covid pandemic. Yes, I did have savings to cover my expenses, but I was no't enough. I am a hard worker; I am not afraid to do any kind of job and I have so many abilities, but Covid severely impacted my access to jobs. I ran out of savings. I was feeling very stressed, and this situation got worse for my family when my dad got sick with Covid. My family did the best to provide medical care for him, because that is what we do for our loved ones Right? But we all know that medical care is very expensive. I couldn't afford to pay the bills, so I had to get a loan. Medical bills and loan interests kept piling up day after day but we did not want to lose my dad too because my mother passed away shortly before my dad got sick, unfortunately my amazing dad passed away. Anyone who has lost a loved one knows how it feels but the medical bills and loans persist. My family was not only hurt emotionally but economically too. This is the reason I support OWRF because this Income has helped me pay my dad's medical bills and my debt. OWRF brought me economic relief. OWRF has helped many people in my community who were strongly affected by Covid.

Our whole state benefits when we respect and care for each other regardless of where we were born. Oregon Worker Relief has helped keep our communities strong during hard times, but we continue to face challenging economic conditions. As a state, we must continue to invest in immigrant communities to make sure that we can all recover and thrive.

Sincerely,

R Mendez

Washington County