

To: Ways and Means Committee

From: Juan Sanchez

Date: April 8, 2023

RE: Ways and Mean Roadshow 2023 - Portland

Dear Members of the Ways and Means Committee.

For the record, my name is Juan Sanchez. I am testifying today to ask you to invest in the work that fellow state workers and I do. I am a member of SEIU Local 503 and testifying on my own time. We risk our lives during wildfires, provide lifelines to families in need, keep our roads safe, care for our most vulnerable, and so much more.

I am happy and I am honored to work for you and for All Oregonians. I work right here, in Portland. I work for the Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries. In BOLI, there are many different divisions.

I work in the Wage and Hour Division as a Compliance Specialist. In my role, I investigate and resolve very important cases that include compliance with State Laws that are related to wages, hours, terms and conditions of employment.

As an example - Minimum wage, overtime, rest and meal periods, expression of milk in the workplace. Just to mention a few, I have a very heavy caseload. This means that there are hundreds of people relying on my work to help them with their needs. I treat every case, every employer and every worker with respect and dignity. I love my job. I love what I do and I love helping people. Thousands of Oregonians rely on BOLI to help them with their needs.

We, State workers, need a healthy and strong budget to continue to serve our communities. I am stressed out because of a very heavy caseload. And then, when I go home I get stressed out, because my wife told me that she was not able to buy all the groceries we need because it was more expensive than last month. This happens every trip to the grocery store. I am an Oregon State worker and I'm struggling to provide for my family.

Avoid cuts to programs and ensure that Agencies have the resources they need to deliver valuable services to Oregonians across the state.

I ask this committee to support the Governor's strategic decision to use all available current resources to invest in key priorities. Oregon's reserves are already healthy and strong. Rather than saving more for a future Rainy Day, we need to make investments now.

Thank you for your time, thank you for your consideration and thank you for the work you are doing for all of us.

Juan.