

Good evening Members of the Committee.

For the record, my name is Telma Pombrol and I work as an office specialist for the Division of Child Support. I have done this work for over 5 1/2 years and I am here today to ask you to invest in Oregon state workers, like me & my husband. We are both state employees & due to a death in the family, we recently had to relocate from Salem to Toledo. We are very close to not making ends meet with most of our income going to housing costs and healthcare.

The Division of Child Support works hard to collect outstanding balances to ensure custodial parents are able to provide for their children. My fellow employees & I are overworked and burnt out. The unsustainable caseloads are exacerbated by the continued challenges with technology, making our work even less efficient. These are real problems impacting the real lives of children in Oregon.

I am asking the Legislature to fund a major investment in state workers so we can begin addressing the workforce crisis, and avoid cuts to programs, to ensure that Agencies have the resources they need to deliver valuable services to Oregonians across the state.

I urge this committee to support the Governor's strategic decision to use all available current resources to invest in key priorities to allow me & my colleagues to continue providing for the children of Oregon. 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 the opportunity to testify today.