

Testimony in support of fully funding the Community College Support Fund

Submitted by Susan Morr , Linn-Benton Community College Part-Time Faculty Association President

24 April 2023

Dear Chairs McLain and Frederick and members of the committee,

My name is Susan Morr , and I am a part-time Biology instructor at Linn-Benton Community College. I also serve as President of the Part-Time Faculty Association. LBCC has campuses in Albany, Corvallis and Lebanon.

Due to post-pandemic lower enrollment at my institution and inadequate investment in education at the state and federal levels, LBCC administrators had to make tough decisions to cut \$2.5 from our college's budget. The solution they chose was to eliminate all but one of the librarian positions and to completely eliminate the Computer Science and Criminal Justice programs. In addition, they are drastically changing the Adult Basic Skills program that so many Oregon students and their families rely on to help them succeed in college.

The ABS program in particular serves some of our most vulnerable students and its degradation is alarming. We serve so many first-generation college students, many of whom need the services of the ABS program in order to even attend college in the first place. Cutting this program is negatively impacting our mission to serve a diversity of students in our state.

The loss of several librarians impacts students and faculty as well – their expertise is irreplaceable.

At a time when there are so many issues with policing, we need a Criminal Justice program to help police be better prepared for the challenges of their jobs and to help them be better protectors and servants in their communities. The Computer Science program is a key part of our Degree Partnership Program with Oregon State University, where CS is one of the largest degree programs. Loss of this program at LBCC will likely lead to even lower enrollment as students choose to go elsewhere for all their classes.

My students and colleagues are struggling with anxiety and stress due to the uncertainty of being able to complete their programs or to have a job following the end of June. Each of these programs are important and their loss will be felt for years to come.

I urge you to allocate the entire \$855 million for the Community College Support Fund to help us restore these critical programs if possible, and to prevent the loss of additional programs. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Susan Morr 
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