

Submitter: Christine Hood
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure: SB5506

To Whom it May Concern:

I am testifying my concern regarding SB5506. The vocabulary laden throughout the bill is too vague for an administration that is liberal in their definitions and spending habits. Repeatedly, the document refers to "any purpose for which the Emergency Board may lawfully allocate funds." What constitutes an "emergency"? This administration plays fast and loose with their spending habits and my tax dollars. A prime example is that of Measure 110, which was to save millions in prosecution costs and transfer the funds to new mental health facilities and aid in the homelessness issue related as such. In Malheur County, we have seen zero of these "millions saved".

The literature is too vague in this bill and needs to be more solidly defined before I, as a citizen, can support my elected representatives in this endeavor.

So what is an emergency that the board gets behind? Natural disaster, such as flooding and fire that plagues Oregon? Is it law enforcement bolstering when criminals begin to riot again? Is it the opioid crisis the administration is fixing by making it worse? Is it drought aid to farmers in the arid deserts of Oregon? What is an emergency?

In all of the subjects that are related to this budget, what is the contingency should the funds allocated not be enough to meet compensation charges, union negotiations, pilot programs for "public safety"? On that note, public safety is too vague too. Didn't see Salem doing much when rioters tore Portland limb from limb and destroyed public and private property. Where do you plan to pull that money? I am in support of re-evaluating this bill with more concise language to prevent unnecessary spending by individuals who do not have the entire state or entire scope of understanding in how this administration has conducted business the last 30 years. I have lost faith in responsible spending of all levels of government in this nation and expect, and demand, this State to be responsible, transparent and accountable with their spending habits down to the last penny.