

Submitter: Lori Bullis
On Behalf Of: SEIU 503-082
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure: SB5506

This testimony is in support of SB5506, funding for the place we call home, Oregon.

I manage resource-sharing at Western Oregon University's Hamersly Library. Western is Oregon's original institution of higher education whose original and continued mission is the education of Oregon's K-12 teachers. However, Western's existence is in jeopardy because Oregon, its libraries, more specifically higher education have not been adequately funded.

To help Western to remain open, our library contributed a permanent \$150,000.00 budget cut to our campus wide permanent 5-million budget cut. My resource-sharing unit contributed 21 percent towards the library budget cut.

But that is not all! Our library will experience additional permanent staffing cuts.

Beginning mid-June and every summer thereafter, my library will not have any faculty librarians on duty to provide reference, research, or library instruction services. And NO, we are NOT permitted to ask these faculty librarians to volunteer their time.

Imagine visiting any library, especially an academic library, and being told, Sorry, due to a lack of state funding, we have no librarians on staff to assist you.

Imagine the impact of that one sentence on Western's ability to recruit and retain students today and in the future.

Oregon and institutions of higher education like Western cannot wait. I urge members of this committee to invest in the workers and services today. This will ensure that Oregon's future is bright and that our libraries are fully staffed, fully functioning, and full of books.

Thank you.