

Submitter: Caz Novak
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure: SB5506

Dear Joint Ways & Means Committee of Oregon,

I urge you to invest in our communities now instead of putting more money into reserves.

The Budget Framework currently leaves out critical community-centered investments and policies that Oregonians need now. With historic levels saved—over \$2 billion—we have the means to rise to the challenges of the day.

We need investments in behavioral health care for vulnerable populations, including children; those experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity; those struggling to make ends meet; people facing food insecurity; and in many, many more areas. We can use this surplus to enact real change today. I fear that, as the pandemic emergency provisions come to a close, marginalized people in our State will be left out and left behind. We all do better when we all do better. With this in mind, I urge you to please support a budget framework that invests in the people of Oregon!

Oregon families cannot wait any longer for investments in our communities and in the future of our state. We must prepare now for any future economic downturn by investing in what gives our communities the opportunity to thrive and reduce demand for services in the future.

Sincerely,
Caz Novak