

Submitter: David Scholten  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5006

Members of the Joint Ways and Means Committee,

Beside President Trump, who stays busy dismantling our nation's social services in an effort to privatize every last aspect of American life, sits Elon Musk, the richest man in the world. Together, they brazenly work to strengthen the elite 1% class, and put a stranglehold on those of us who actually work for a living.

But before you criticise Donald Trump and Elon Musk, I hope you will ask yourself "How have I held Oregon's 1% accountable?" "How have I held Oregon's multi-billion dollar corporations like Nike and Intel accountable to pay their fair share?"

In Oregon, with a Democratic supermajority, we should have a better record of refusing to allow the rich and powerful to dictate policy and instead demand they pay their fair share in order to care for our most needy. But here in Oregon, we seem to play the same game as Musk and Trump, we are just a little more polite about it.

Where is your resistance? Where is your moral compass? Where is your willingness to do what is politically risky? Before you criticise Elon Musk and Donald Trump, I hope you will look in the mirror and ask yourself what you have done to stand up to Oregon's Elon Musks.

I am a 5th grade teacher in SE Portland.

Your unwillingness to be brave impacts my most vulnerable students. Our social worker was cut last year, severing access to vital community care connections that helped our most vulnerable students, those who experience regular hunger and those who do not have stable housing.

Your unwillingness to be brave impacts my most vulnerable students. This year, we will lose our reading specialist, who provides reading support to predominantly students of color, kids who already face extra barriers because they were not born white in America.

Governor Kotek's education budget proposal is a death sentence for public education. We need you to fund education at the QEM level while strengthening other services that support the most vulnerable in our communities. We need you to be strong. We need you to be brave. We need you to take the money from those

who have too much and give it to those who have too little. Thank you.