

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

Co-Chairs Lieber and Sanchez, and members of the committee.

My name is Tova Woyciechowicz and I recently moved to Portland from Pendleton to work with SEIU 503. I am testifying today to ask you to prioritize protecting Oregonians and our immediate needs in your state budget, including the homecare program that cares for some of our most vulnerable and the natural environment that is the reason I live here in Oregon.

I know that you are dealing with some budget instability from the federal government, and it is important to hold steady and not overreact to that chaos. Please put more than the 75 billion that Governor Kotek put in her budget for homecare workers. 68% of care providers are living paycheck to paycheck and more than a third spend more than half their income on housing. Please increase the amount you put into the budget for homecare to negotiate a contract so that they can have a living wage that will allow them to be housed and put food on the table. Also work on housing costs for everyone in the state.

Regarding the environment I know that trying to protect it has held up proceedings in the past. All that I ask is that you value any proposals that come up to lesson our impact on Oregon's natural world because that is why so many of us choose to live here. Don't let industry destroy what's left and help us cope with the repercussions of climate change.

Please refrain from making pre-emptive cuts based on speculation on what might happen federally! Invest in caregivers and state workers. Please prioritize a state budget which protects Oregonians rather than adding to the chaos.

Thanks,
Tova Woyciechowicz