

Submitter: Tiffany Lawson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Human Services

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB5526

Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for the appropriation of moneys from the General Fund to the Department of Human Services (DHS) for certain biennial expenses.

This funding is not just a budget item—it's an investment in the wellbeing and dignity of Oregonians who rely on DHS services. Whether it's ensuring access to essential support for children, families, older adults, or people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, these funds help stabilize and strengthen the systems that make our communities more equitable, safe, and resilient.

Every dollar directed to DHS helps protect the vulnerable, supports caregivers, improves case management, and ensures that vital programs continue to operate without disruption. These services are often life-changing, and in many cases, life-saving.

Investing in DHS is a proactive, cost-effective approach that prevents deeper systemic crises in the long run—such as homelessness, hospitalization, or involvement with the criminal justice system. This appropriation allows us to respond to needs with compassion and foresight, instead of waiting for emergencies to escalate.

I urge you to support this appropriation as a necessary step toward a healthier, more inclusive, and more responsive Oregon.

Thank you for your leadership and your commitment to the people of this state.