

Good afternoon. My name is Krista Kroiss and am a reporter for the Wilsonville Spokesman, which is owned by Carpenter Media Group — Oregon. I support Senate Bill 686.

I cover everything from city government to breaking news and features. Prior to this position, I was an intern at the Eugene Weekly and at the East Oregonian in Pendleton. The Spokesman is Wilsonville's only newspaper, and the only source of reliable local news that I am aware of. Without me, Wilsonville would not have had a trusted source to explain the complicated dispute between the city and Home Depot that occurred last year, or provide coverage of a contentious City Council and mayoral election. There is no one else to watchdog City Council executive sessions, or tell the community why a local business had to close.

I have only been in my position for a year, and I have loved building relationships with community members and city officials, working to share important stories with the community. Without me, residents would need to rely on Facebook groups or the city website to tell them what they need to know — sources that are not guaranteed to tell an unbiased and accurate story. This is a job best done by someone who knows this community well and is a part of it, and this funding would allow me to continue my work here and grow as a journalist. It could allow for more reporters giving your constituents access to more reliable news and information in Wilsonville and elsewhere across the state, while expanding the ability to dive deep into stories that take time to investigate. It can ensure that I am able to continue growing and learning in this career, helping your constituents understand issues and better participate in and safeguard our democracy. Thank you for your time.