

Submitter: Amanda Luce
On Behalf Of: Invest in Oregonians
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5006

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

It is crucial that you prioritize protecting Oregonians and our immediate needs in your state budget. Actions from the White House and Republicans in Congress are enriching billionaires but creating real harm, job losses, higher prices, and economic instability for everyday people.

Oregonians are counting on you to protect us by holding steady.

As you build the state budget, I urge you to prepare for any coming economic downturn or federal funding reductions by doing what we know works to keep families stable: strategically investing in our communities and giving Oregonians more opportunities to thrive.

Please prioritize a state budget which protects Oregonians.

I've run a small business in Portland for over 4 years. Like so many others, I was hit hard by inflation—people stopped spending on anything that wasn't absolutely necessary, and I lost my studio. I've been looking for work, but the jobs I can find don't pay enough to survive. I've needed help just to keep my lights on and stay housed—something I never thought I'd have to rely on public assistance for. I can only imagine with more and more people losing their government jobs, it's going to get so much worse. There's going to be an increase in people taking jobs that don't pay a living wage and possibly losing their homes and then what? More people who need to be housed with nowhere to get help. Government assistance is supposed to be temporary to help those who are struggling get back on their feet. But what's going to happen when there's no one there to answer the call because that funding doesn't exist anymore? It's all in the pockets of corruption. The very people who could end world hunger but chose to put a billboard on mars instead. To add more zeros to their account balances- money they will never be able to spend in their lifetime. And to cut the funding for programs that actually help people is an even bigger slap in the face. This dystopian future is bleak and going to be here before we know it. The wealthy get richer and the poorer become destitute and our government is turning its back on the people. If the wealthy truly want to see homelessness and instability disappear, they should stop attacking the very systems that help people stay afloat. We need our state leaders to protect us. Cutting state-funded programs right now would be a devastating mistake. Please pass a budget that invests in Oregonians—not one that follows the billionaire playbook. If the wealthy truly want to

see homelessness and instability disappear, they should stop attacking the very systems that help people stay afloat. We need our state leaders to protect us. Cutting state-funded programs right now would be a devastating mistake. Please pass a budget that invests in our communities —not one that follows the corrupt billionaire playbook.

Thank you.