

Submitter: Sophia Jones
On Behalf Of: University of Oregon Student Workers-UAW
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5006

Hello, my name is Sophia Jones, I live in Eugene, where I am a student worker at the University of Oregon, majoring in history. In order to afford my living expenses in college I work part time on campus at a dining hall. My job mostly consists of very standard food service work. I prepare food to be cooked, I wash dishes, wipe down tables and serve meals to hundreds of students every day. This is essential work for the thousands of students who live on campus and attend the university.

Currently dining workers make \$15.95, and get paid once a month, it is impossible to live off of these wages with this pay period. I have struggled to make my rent on time, and have burned through my savings while in college in order to be able to continue my education. Many of my coworkers have to get second jobs to make ends meet, or sacrifice academic success in order to make ends meet. These wages force us to commit so much of our time as students to working.

Through the last year of bargaining, we have made the University very aware of the situation that they are putting their workers in. Despite this, the UO has failed to propose wages higher than minimum wage. As essential workers at this university, student workers deserve more than the bare minimum from the multi-billion dollar institution we work for.

The state budget needs to reflect the needs of all Oregonians. I am not asking you to provide more funding to the University of Oregon, but encourage them to use the state funding they currently receive responsibly. It is financially irresponsible of the university to use tax dollars and student tuition to give themselves raises while underpaying student workers. Please reach out to University of Oregon administrators tomorrow and urge them to make movement at the bargaining table to avoid thousands of my coworkers and I from going on strike.