

Submitter:	Casper Riordan
On Behalf Of:	UOSW
Committee:	Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure, Appointment or Topic:	HB5006

My name is Casper Riordan, I live in Eugene and I am a third year at the University of Oregon studying Environmental Studies and Psychology. I am a student worker at Carson Dining and a member of the University of Oregon Student Workers Union. My job consists mostly of prepping food and washing dishes at a venue that serves hundreds of students every day.

I am one of many student workers working multiple jobs to meet my needs, because the low wages and month long pay period at my university job make it impossible to make ends meet. Many weeks during the school year I am working upwards of thirty hours between my two jobs because my UO job alone is not enough to meet my financial needs. This is on top of being a full time student and I often struggle to find the time and energy to focus on my education.

After close to a year of bargaining with our union, UO still refuses to consider our proposed wages and compensation article that addresses the financial needs of student workers. This article in our contract would ensure that students are making a living wage and receiving pay on a legal and reasonable pay period.

The state budget needs to reflect the needs of all Oregonians. I am not here today to ask you for more funding for the University of Oregon. It is financially irresponsible of the university to use tax dollars and student tuition to give themselves raises and underpay student workers. Please reach out to University of Oregon administrators tonight and urge them to reach a tentative agreement with us tomorrow in bargaining to avoid thousands of my coworkers and I from going on strike. Student workers need to be treated fairly both at the bargaining table and in the workplace. Thank you for your time.