

Submitter: Anne McVay  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5006

My name is Anne McVay and I am a constituent of district 14 in West Eugene. I am an SEIU member employed at the University of Oregon. I am speaking today to urge the Ways and Means Committee to make higher education a priority in the state budget, and to reject any new, or any continuation of, Oregon tax breaks for corporations or the ultra-wealthy. The legislature must invest 1.275 billion in the Public University Support Fund. In my job as a Graduate Programs Assistant, I support many international students. The international students that I help every day can no longer go home during the summer due to Visa concerns, the summer term has no guaranteed funding, and international students cannot get employment outside of campus. The Public University Support Fund would directly help my students by giving our campuses more resources for students in need. I fear for their safety every day when I see how the Trump administration is threatening Federal funding as a means to get public universities to turn over confidential information about students who have utilized their first amendment right. I urge you, please, do not give Oregon public universities an excuse. I worry that if Oregon public universities do not receive additional State funding, they will do the same thing that Columbia University did. Please help protect our students and empower them to succeed through these unprecedented times by supporting the Public University Support Fund. Thank you very much for your time and consideration and for all you do for Oregon.