

Submitter: Nick Fox

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee
On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB5525

I am a long-time Oregon community college faculty member. My job is to help prepare Oregonians--often those who are among the most underserved in the state--for better careers and richer lives. Underfunding community colleges makes my job harder--and it makes it harder for Oregonians to have a fair crack at the good life. I want to share one example where funding would make our institution stronger: hiring new faculty. Because Oregon had a low cost of living for a long time, it was easy for us to hire new faculty--often young people, fresh out of grad school. That's changed (especially in the Portland metro) in the last 15 years, as we all know. I have served on countless hiring committees where excellent, passionate experts turn down our job offers--because they can make more doing similar work in Washington or California. More robust funding would help us hire the next generation of faculty who will work to empower Oregonian students at community colleges around the state. Thank you for considering my perspective.