

Joint Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Education

In re: SB 5525

Public Hearing 5/1/2025

I am testifying today as the Director of the Population Research Center at Portland State University in support of PSU's budget request. PSU generates numerous benefits for the state. The university serves thousands of students in Oregon's largest city and beyond. It is also an incubator for new theoretical and applied research that helps propel Oregon's economic engine.

Population data drive almost \$20 billion in federal funds to Oregon each year. The Population Research Center at PSU works with the US Census Bureau to ensure a complete count of the Oregon population, providing data and outreach to ensure that every Oregonian is counted. Starting this biennium, we are beginning work to support the 2030 Census, including connecting with agencies to ensure that we are prepared to make the most of programs such as the Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) that will offer a direct opportunity to add housing and population to the 2030 Census frame, and in other programs that will aid with redistricting at the state and local government levels after the 2030 Census.

In the intervening years, we produce annual population estimates that are used to distribute state funds from a variety of taxes and fees, and for other policy purposes for state agencies and researchers, including estimating population displaced from natural disasters; incarceration rates; vaccination rates, and more. PRC also produces long-run population projections, which inform land use decisions and regional housing needs. We also help state agency partners and the public identify and understand the data available from the decennial census and from sources such as the American Community Survey.

PSU offers the only graduate level training in demographics in Oregon, and many of our graduates go on to distinguished careers in Oregon state and local government or as community leaders.

State targeted funds for census and population research under SB 5525 will enable the Population Research Center to serve state agencies, local governments, and the people of Oregon with accurate and timely data for appropriating state funds and setting public policies.

For these reasons, I support PSU's budget request for the full current support level. Thank you to the committee members for their support of higher education in Oregon and for their work and time on this committee.

/s Ethan Sharygin

Ethan Sharygin

Director, Population Research Center

College of Urban Planning and Affairs

Portland State University