

Submitter: Lisa Hubbard
On Behalf Of: Adapt Integrated Health Care
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee
On Education
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB5525

I am writing to submit my enthusiastic support for funding of \$920 million for Oregon's 17 community colleges for the next biennium. As the Director of Training and Staff Development at Adapt, a provider of behavioral and primary health care services in 4 rural Oregon counties (Douglas, Coos, Josephine and Curry), I can attest to the vital role that community colleges make in the support and development of the behavioral health workforce. We have close partnerships with the community colleges in all of our catchment areas and work closely with CWE (collaborative work experience) students and other interns from these programs to enhance their skills and work readiness. Additionally, we have many employees in leadership positions who started at the community college level and went on to obtain their bachelor's and in some cases master's degree. Two of our substance use disorder treatment program directors started as community college students / interns and have worked their way up! Community colleges are economic drivers in rural communities and provide a pathway for local students to develop skills and stay in our communities, which are also traditionally difficult places to recruit and retain staff.

Thank you so much for your attention to this important topic.

Lisa Hubbard LCSW