

Submitter: Jane Reid
On Behalf Of: Clackamas Community College
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee
On Education
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB5525

Dear Co-Chairs and Members of the Committee. My name is Jane Reid and I serve on the Board of Education Clackamas Community College. I am writing today to urge you to fully fund Oregon's community colleges at \$920 million for the 2025-27 biennium.

As a board member representing Estacada, Colton and Molalla, I see every day how vital our community college is to the students and businesses in our region. For many Oregonians, community colleges are the most affordable and accessible path to higher education, career training, and a better future. I am particularly excited by the relationship Clackamas Community College has with the Estacada School District – more than 40 high school students are enrolled in our dual enrollment program and will graduate with a high school diploma and an associates degree at the same time! CCC is also working with these three districts on a mobile career and technical education classroom that can save duplication of these expensive programs in the K-12 schools.

We are a critical piece of Oregon's workforce pipeline. Our programs directly address workforce shortages and provide students with the training necessary for family-wage careers. Without adequate funding, we cannot expand programs to meet demand, and Oregon will continue to face critical workforce shortages.

Our students also face increasing challenges. The demand for childcare, food assistance, and housing support has grown dramatically, yet our colleges are struggling to keep up with the need. Without additional resources, we risk losing students—not because they aren't capable, but because they can't afford to stay enrolled.

Without sufficient state funding, community colleges will have no choice but to raise tuition or cut programs. We want to keep tuition affordable, provide the support students need, and continue offering high-quality workforce training—but we need your help to do it.

I urge you to fully fund the Community College Support Fund at \$920 million. An investment in Oregon's community colleges is an investment in students, in businesses, and in the strength of our state's economy because community colleges WORK for Oregon.

Thank you for your time and consideration.