

Submitter: Susan Anderson  
On Behalf Of: Southwestern Oregon Community College  
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee  
On Education  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB5525

Once again the country is on the precipice of a recession and lay offs are beginning. Such economic reorganization requires training and retooling. Community Colleges are the local entity best prepared to provide necessary training for new jobs but they are facing a 14.9 percent costs for the 2025-27 biennium. Unfortunately, inflation has already resulted in higher than normal tuition, fees, and housing costs for Southwestern Community College (SWOCC) for 2025-26. While tuition costs and debt carried by SWOCC graduates remains below the state averages, 15 percent of SWOCC students can't meet expenses and 21 percent of our students must seek loans to fill the gaps for those needs. Without the \$920 million in state support, those numbers will only grow.

I write today to urge your support of HB 5525, the Community College Support Fund. Southwestern CC is training workers for critical Oregon careers and working to meet the needs of local businesses but that vital work cannot happen without appropriate state funding as student enrollment continues to rise and new CTE programs, which are costly to develop and run, must come online to meet the changing job market!

Thank you for your time and supporting HB 5525.

Susan Anderson  
SWOCC Board Vice Chair