

Submitter: Alison Lutz
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee
On Education
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB5525

Alison Lutz Testimony
SB 5525 to the Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Education
April 28, 2025

Co-Chair Sollman, Co-Chair Ruiz, and members of the Subcommittee,

For the record, my name is Alison Lutz and I am here today to urge you to support \$920 million for Community College Support Fund plus another \$40 million for pay parity, \$150 million additional funds for the Oregon Opportunity Grant, and please reject any and all tax breaks to corporations and the ultra wealthy. The future of Oregon Higher Education depends on it.

I am a part-time faculty member at Chemeketa Community College where I've worked since 2011. Even though I am labeled as "part-time", I regularly teach more than a full time class load, I teach every term (including summers), teaching is my main source of income, and I am dedicated to this work and to my students.

I teach the exact same classes as my full-time colleagues, have the same qualifications, receive excellent evaluations, but I get paid less. Our students receive the same credits, why don't I get the same pay? Institutions like Chemeketa, use part-time faculty to save costs, at a disservice to students. I have to teach at multiple institutions to make ends meet. I'm unable to provide my students the adequate attention they need, as I have to run out of my classroom to drive to my next job.

Because my wages at Chemeketa do not support me fully, I spent the last year looking for other part-time openings. This year I was offered a class to teach at Mount Hood Community College. Unfortunately, I had to decline that offer so that I could take another offer at Clark College in Vancouver, Washington. I took the Clark job over Mt Hood simply because Clark pays more, in fact, Clark pays almost double Mt Hood as a new hire. Also at Clark, I make \$800 more per class than I do at Chemeketa where I've been teaching for more than 13 years.

Please support and fund Part-Time Faculty Pay Parity so Oregon Community Colleges don't lose quality educators like myself to higher wages in Washington or to other careers.

The Oregon Opportunity Grant makes higher education possible for my students.

Federal and state funding of public colleges and universities has dwindled over the last 50 years, requiring students to bear the cost of rising tuition. The Oregon Opportunity Grant helps ease this burden on my students, who attend community college to gain the necessary skills and education to be our mechanics, our nurses, our children's school teachers. This grant helps people and our local economy by training future workers.

Thank you for your time,

Alison Lutz

Portland, OR, OEA member, Chemeketa Community College