

Submitter: Brendan Adamczyk

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On  
General Government

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5016

Co-chairs Gorsek and Smith and members of the committee,

My name is Brendan Adamczyk and I am requesting that this biennium's legislative budget allow for two (2) year-round staff per legislative office. As an Oregonian, access to my elected officials is highly important to me. I want to be able to trust that my views are being noted and my concerns are being addressed throughout the year. If I have an issue with a state agency, I want to know I can turn to my legislator's office for help. Additionally, I want to see well-researched, fully-developed policies introduced at the beginning of session so that constituents can meaningfully interact with the legislative process and know what is being proposed. All this can only happen if there are enough staff to do all of this work.

I briefly served as an intern for now-Congresswoman Maxine Dexter in the summer of 2020. While I was incredibly grateful for this opportunity, I opted to move into another role because of the lack of guaranteed long-term stability and employment during the interim. Relying on seasonal staff means more resources are needed to train and onboard new employees every few months. Qualified staff often leave soon after gaining the experience needed to effectively work in the legislature - as I did - leaving legislative work to younger, less-experienced staffers. Moreover, many offices have seen constituent caseloads increase and even double since the COVID-19 pandemic. Oregonians deserve timely responses when they need help.

Please fund adequate year-round staffing in legislative offices to support effective, responsive, and efficient governance and public service.

With respect,  
Brendan Adamczyk