

May 2, 2025

Dear Co-Chair Gorsek, Co-Chair Smith, and Members of the Joint Committee on Ways & Means Subcommittee on General Government,

In my personal capacity, I am writing to express support for year-round LA2s. Since 2021, I have worked in the legislature as a legislative intern, legislative assistant, and now a caucus staffer.

Whether it is crafting intricate public policy, organizing community outreach, or handling urgent constituent casework, I have seen the amazing work that staffers do for the legislators and constituents they serve. Each and every one of them has a heart for public service, and I am always humbled to be making this state a better place alongside such dedicated public servants.

When sine die is imminent, there are sacrifices to be made. Legislators have to drop their LA2s from payroll, and chief of staffs have to pick up the slack. Yet, time and time again, I have seen chief of staffs in a conundrum. With understaffed offices, chief of staffs are stuck with the impossible task of doing every office function with the same quality of service. This is a situation with no winners – for legislators, staffers, and Oregonians alike.

Our institutions are only as strong as the people who serve them. When we churn out legislative staffers, the Oregon Legislature experiences a brain drain of institutional knowledge and expertise. This leaves the legislature more susceptible to outside influences. Moreover, this situation directly impacts Oregonians across the state, who deserve timely and quality service from their state government.

I respectfully ask the Oregon Legislature to fund year-round LA2s. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Theresa Mai', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Theresa Mai