

Submitter: Brennen Javorsky

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On
Capital Construction

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB5531

Dear Co-Chairs Sen. Girod and Rep. Nosse, and Members of the Committee,
My name is Brennen Javorsky, and I work for the Southwestern Oregon Community College Foundation. I'm writing today in strong support of Senate Bill 5531, and specifically the proposal to fund repairs to the two elevators in Tioga Hall. Located on the fifth floor of Tioga Hall on the Coos Bay campus, our small foundation team of two serves nearly 300 students each year through scholarships and emergency financial aid. Many of these students come to our office seeking help – often when they are overwhelmed, anxious or facing a financial crisis. Elevator outages only add to the list of stressors. I have been on the elevator with students who have told me they will only ride one of the elevators because of a sketchy experience they or their friends have had on one the elevators. When one elevator is out, it often takes several days or more for a repair crew to arrive. During those stretches, only one elevator serves five floors of college staff, students, and community visitors. If both elevators were to fail, our office would effectively be inaccessible.

This issue doesn't just impact students. Our foundation regularly hosts donors and board members in our office. Most of them are middle-aged or elderly and can't realistically climb five flights of stairs to attend a meeting or drop by to talk about how they can support students. For a college and Foundation whose mission is access and equity, this is more than an inconvenience.

Some might wonder why our foundation doesn't simply raise the funds to fix the elevators ourselves. The reality is our donors are committed to helping students directly. They want to support scholarships, learning programs, and essential needs. Raising money for something like elevator repair is difficult and detracts from our highest funding needs.

Reliable elevators Tioga Hall are not a luxury. They are critical and ensure students, staff and community members can access college and foundation services and support.

Thank you for considering the college's request.

Sincerely,
Brennen Javorsky
SWOCC Foundation