

**ANNA WILLIAMS**  
**STATE REPRESENTATIVE**  
DISTRICT 52



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

August 11, 2020

Timothy G. Sekerak  
Chief Clerk of the House  
State Capitol Building, H271  
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Vote Explanation on House Bill 4304

Dear Chief Clerk Sekerak,

I am writing to provide reasoning for my vote in opposition to House Bill 4304, the bill containing administrative fixes to support budget-balancing legislation during 2020's Second Special Session. While I admire the many hours of work that my colleagues on the Joint Committee on Ways and Means put into prioritizing responsible cuts to agency budgets, and appreciate that one of the provisions in this accompanying bill was included in response to my request, I could not in good conscience support the budget bill, and therefore also voted in opposition to HB 4304.

It was difficult for me to vote against a bill that provided an administrative fix to the reimbursement process that children's advocacy centers (CACs) undertake in order to receive Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funding. The process of seeking VOCA reimbursements has created undue regulatory burden for these centers since before this pandemic, but now that social distancing and an economic downturn have impacted their daily operations, this provision was vital for CACs' ability to provide services.

Still, when the budget bill called for such extensive cuts to human services for Oregonians who need them most, including a total repeal of the TANF Housing Pilot Program passed in 2019, cuts to Early Learning Hubs and the Healthy Families program, and significant cuts to the Farm to School program, which will impact struggling families and farmers alike in my district, I could not stand in support of that budget, nor could I vote in favor of this companion bill.

I want to be clear: Oregon only needs to make these budget cuts due to the failure of Congress to protect state and local programs that are keeping Oregon families afloat during the pandemic. The federal government needs to do its part for struggling Oregonians and small businesses by passing legislation that will fund critical services. In order to strengthen our state's health and our economy, we must fully fund our schools, healthcare, and the programs that keep all of our communities safe. If our people have the resources they need to thrive, our local businesses will prosper, our students will succeed, and Oregon can continue to be a state we're all proud to call home.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Anna Williams".

State Representative Anna Williams

