

**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 Senate Bill 5723

Dear Chief Clerk Sekerak,

I am writing to provide reasoning for my vote in opposition to Senate Bill 5723, the main budget bill proposed in the Second 2020 Special Session. While I admire the many hours of work that my colleagues on the Joint Committee on Ways and Means put into prioritizing the cuts to agency budgets laid out in this bill, and appreciate that one of the provisions in the bill was in direct response to my repeated requests for funding, I took issue with enough of the program cuts that I could not in good conscience support the bill.

First, it was difficult for me to vote against a bill that provides a \$1 million Special Purpose Appropriation to the Emergency Board, to be allocated to the Department of Justice for Children's Advocacy Centers. I have repeatedly requested that funding from the Emergency Board (though I requested more than twice the amount provided), and I am pleased that this particular provision of the budget has been passed. Also, for the most part, the budget reflected the co-chairs' priority of avoiding undue hardship.

Still, with 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 this budget.

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

