

**Here are 3 excellent sample letters to the editor. Make them your own.
Tell the story.**

SAMPLE LETTER 1:

As an Oregonian, I'm horrified by the proposed 30% cuts to the Oregon Department of Human Services budget.

DHS provides food stamps, mental and substance abuse treatment, support for foster children, and many other services that the people of Oregon depend upon. Especially during this time of increased need, we can't afford to cut programs that our fellow citizens need now more than ever.

The folks who depend on these services will be forced to go without, meaning many will end up in emergency rooms, sent off to prison, or forced to live on the streets. All of these options end up wasting taxpayer money that would be more effectively spent providing basic services early on.

Our state's success is based on the power of ordinary citizens working together. We must stand together and have the courage to protect our vulnerable neighbors.

We can do better than this.

SAMPLE LETTER 2:

The 30% cuts proposed for the Oregon Department of Human Services doesn't make any sense to me.

During a time when jobs are being shed from the private sector and Oregon's unemployment rate is one of the highest in the country, why would we want to be laying-off thousands of workers - especially the ones who are there to help the Oregonians who need it?

According to research from the Department of Human Services, human service investments in the health care and social assistance sector support some 55,000 jobs in Oregon and DHS spending accounts for nearly one-third of Oregon's Gross Domestic Product. Most of this spending - 83% in fact - is passed on to local communities and the private sector. Lawmakers should remember that health and social service jobs help stimulate local economies as much as any other job.

During these uncertain economic times, we must keep as many Oregonians working as possible, especially those who look out for our

state's citizens who need the most help right now.

SAMPLE LETTER 3:

- Penny-wise and pound-foolish. That was the first thought that came to mind when I heard about the proposed 30% cuts to the Oregon Department of Human Services budget.

Not only would we be cutting services to our most vulnerable citizens, but by doing so, many of them would likely end up in emergency rooms, sent to prison, or forced to live on the streets.

Senseless cuts to human services doesn't just hurt needy Oregonians at a time when they need help more than ever - it also wastes taxpayer money by providing services at the most expensive point in the system. By helping Oregonians in need early on, through mental health or substance abuse services for example, we save money and get people the assistance they need to get back on their feet and contributing to their communities again.

Cutting human services right now just doesn't make any "cents". We can do better than this.