March 11, 2013

RE: Tuition Equity

To: Co-sponsors of Tuition Equity
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Sponsors of Tuition Equity,

As members of the Southern Oregon University Faculty Senate, we write in support
of HB 2787, the Tuition Equity legislation that would make in-state tuition available
to some Oregon students who are considered "undocumented" based on their
parents' immigration status.

As our general fund continues to dwindle, we must take positive steps to ensure that
we can educate our young people. Not only does this help develop an educated
workforce, providing more tax dollars for the state, but it also helps draw in
businesses seeking cutting-edge, highly skilled employees, and fosters future
generations of committed, connected and engaged Oregonians. Oregon cannot
afford to leave these students behind and we need to find pathways to enable
educational opportunities that allow young people to learn, and to contribute to our
state.

We find it especially troubling that, while Oregon is federally mandated to provide a
K-12 education for all children - regardless of documentation status - there is no
such plan for post-secondary education. Many of these students, committed to
education, have excelled in their K-12 schooling through their own determination. As
educators, we stand ready to help them succeed in postsecondary education and
move them along the continuum to help meet Oregon's 40-40-20 goal.

Tuition Equity isn't about granting special privileges or exceptions. It's simply a
matter of ensuring that every Oregonian who is eligible to pursue an education is
able to do so. It will help us achieve affordable and quality higher education for *all*

qualified Oregon high school graduates.

We believe in the need and the power behind this important bill. Please don't let the potential of these students and Oregon's initial investment in them go to waste.

Let this be the year we pass Tuition Equity.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Chair Dr. Jody Waters
and Southern Oregon University Faculty Senate