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## OREGON BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

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Chair Dembrow and Members of the House Higher Education and Workforce Development Committee,

Improving access to post-secondary education is a key pillar in OBA's strategic plan. OBA supports moving Oregon toward the 40-40-20 goal through pursuit of a fundamental redesign of the education system. In order to achieve this, funding models must be redesigned to encourage innovation and improved outcomes, including an overhaul of funding for post-secondary education to ensure degree attainment consistent with our 40-40-20 goals.

OBA supports the Opportunity Initiative as one part of the redesign that will help move us closer to 40-40-20. The OBA will be looking for additional information as the session unfolds as to which capital projects may be affected as key choices are made here in the Capitol.

The high cost of tuition in the state of Oregon is a major barrier to Oregonians who want are striving to achieve a higher education in Oregon. This is true for low income students in particular. Oregon has relied on an import strategy for educated citizens to meet workforce demands. This initiative addresses this problem by providing resources to Oregon's students to obtain post-secondary education.

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