



Momentum Alliance
700 N Killingsworth, Portland, OR 97230
Testimony of Jhoana Mondroy
In support of SB932, Access to Opportunity
March 24, 2015

Dear Chair Roblan, Vice Chair Knopp and Esteemed Members of the Committee.

My name is Jhoana Monroy, and I am a student at Portland Community College. I am here today to ask you to support SB 932, Access to Opportunity.

At 5 years of age, my parents brought me to this wonderful country. I knew my life would change completely. My parents want me to have a bright future, and knew I could have one here.

But being undocumented limits one. Throughout my path, I found out that I was ineligible for many opportunities that my peers were eligible for, like getting a driver's license, traveling, working, and financial aid. I was confused as to why this was happening. It didn't make sense why I was being targeted, why people were judging my community? Why I didn't deserve to succeed?

I felt shameful of who I was, and several times I held back of what I could have said, and done. I am and have been a resident of Oregon for many years... almost 2 decades. This goes to show that my life and home is here. I have two brilliant daughters now, and my husband, who love and support me. I have many dreams, but my biggest is higher education. I believe education will open doors. I always loved learning. This is why I have decided to go back to school and become someone professional who aspires to help underrepresented families like mine.

Now, I attend Rock Creek Portland Community College. I won't give up on my education anymore. In 2011, I graduated from high school, and I didn't even think of going to college because I knew my parents were not going to be able to help me pay for it. I left my dream on hold until recently. I have enrolled for spring term classes and I'm paying it all of it out of pocket.

I know that once I'm done with community college, I will have to pay out of state tuition in order to obtain my bachelor's degree. I need your support to continue my education. I need you to believe in me. I need you to think of me as a person. I need you all!

I'm limited right now. I'm only able to afford one or two classes, so I know reaching my dream of having a bachelor's degree, will take a lot of time, because of financial reasons. The time limits are affecting me right now! I'm afraid. I didn't go to college right away, but I didn't just stay home. I worked for my community. I became a leader to others and an advocate. I'm passionate about social justice and I need you to see the leader within me.

I have just started my higher education journey, please don't stop me. I will never be able to afford out-of-state tuition. You have a say on my dream, and I really hope you help me reach it.



I urge you to support SB 932, Access to Opportunity. Thank you once again for your time.

Sincerely

Jhoana Monroy

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