

Oregon Student Association



March 20, 2019

To: Senate Committee on Education,
From: Odalis Aguilar
RE: SB 958, Dreamers Access Program

Good afternoon members of the committee,

My name is Odalis Aguilar Aguilar and I am a first year student at the University of Oregon studying Ethnic Studies and Spanish and I also a Policy Associate for the Oregon Student Association. The Oregon Student Association is a statewide organization that represents 130,000 students in Oregon whose mission is to work for an affordable and accessible higher education. I am here today in support of SB 958 which is the Dreamers Access Program.

As a resident of the state of Oregon, I am able to benefit from financial aid by the state and federal governments. I benefit from Pathway Oregon which covers the cost of tuition and fees by the University of Oregon and if I am being honest that is the sole reason I am a now a duck. I was born in Oaxaca Mexico and brought to the United States as a child. I am a U.S. Citizen and due to that fact, I can access resources that undocumented students across the country and in Oregon cannot because of the barriers set in place that prevents them from succeeding. It is with great desire that they wish to attend a college or university to better themselves and move upwards in the socioeconomic ladder.

My brothers and sisters who are undocumented are sadly discouraged from pursuing higher education because of the enormous price tags and their inability to receive financial aid. Oregon is one of the few states that helps ease the cost of higher education by providing tuition equity for students who are undocumented but even though, students find themselves priced out. Not being able to take out loans to pay for school is a burden SB 958 would remove by creating a loan program for those students. I ask of this committee to continue to support students across Oregon no matter their legal status.

Warm regards,

Odalis Aguilar Aguilar
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Policy Associate, Oregon Student Association

OREGON STUDENT ASSOCIATION

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