



## Oregon Student Association

Good afternoon Co-Chair Roblan, Co-Chair Warner, and members of the committee.

My name is Kevin Figueroa and I am a student at Western Oregon University. Thank you for allowing myself to be here and speak on the educational funding package. I would like to begin on how amazing it is to hear the funding being provided for K-12 funding and how supportive I am personally, as well as the organizations I work along with such as OSA and WOU. As a future educator, I could not be more supportive of allocating funds as I believe it is extremely important to support those who are within the K-12 and as well those beyond within higher education so we may continue the positivity of education for all.

As a product of K-12 and an ongoing student at the higher education level, I have seen the impact affordability has taken on to those around me and myself as well. Educators of color are on the rise and in demand to further increase the representation to match the diversity within the K-12. Students alongside me have been priced out in the middle of their studies on the way to this end goal and would incentivize future active and contributing citizens of Oregon's economic status instead of having their focus on the college debt crisis within Oregon students.

This is another opportunity to further increase the amazing support you already are with the funds to expand the OOG and truly make a cradle to career path more accessible to all who need it. We hope to increase the funding to a capacity to make sure all students who receive the pell grant also are eligible to receive the OOG to further lighten the burden, since we've seen many eligible students be neglected due to lack of funds. Students, both close to me and strangers alike, all have a similar struggle each term on determining how is this going to affect my financials. These grants together determine, depending on each student on where they stand on the financial aid brackets, whether they must choose between buying textbooks for the term or groceries for the month.

In this once in a decade opportunity where the Legislature can truly path the way to improve education cradle to career and I ask for all of you to please consider allocating funds to support pre-K through 20 as well as the Oregon Opportunity Grant.

### **OREGON STUDENT ASSOCIATION**

The Oregon Student Association (OSA) is a statewide, student-led advocacy and organizing non-profit established in 1975 to represent, serve, and protect the collective interests of students in postsecondary education in Oregon

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