

April 9, 2019

Co-Chair Roblan, Co-Chair Smith Warner, Co-Vice Chair Knopp, Co-Vice Chair Smith and Members of the Committee

Subject: Don't Leave College Students Behind in New Education Funding

Legislators have a once-in-decade opportunity to invest in Oregon students and reform Oregon's tax system, but the current plan leaves college students behind.

By 2020, 65 percent of new jobs are expected to require education and training beyond high school. To provide Oregonians the opportunity they need to thrive and for businesses to help grow the economy, we need to support students from cradle to career.

Since Measure 5, Oregon students have seen tuition increases vastly outpace inflation while programs and services have been cut because state investment fell further behind. Student debt is higher than it's even been.

I received my first bachelor's degree from Portland State University and the expense was astronomical. I then went to Clackamas Community College to do my prerequisites for nursing school and I was able to pay out-of-pocket for my classes. I was accepted to the nursing programs at Oregon Health and Sciences University, Walla Walla University and Clackamas Community College. The biggest factor in deciding to attend Clackamas Community College was the expense. I could only afford to go to Clackamas Community College so it is very important to me for community colleges to remain affordable. I would not be a registered nurse in June 2019 if it wasn't for Clackamas Community College. Everyone deserves to go to college and keeping community colleges affordable makes that dream happen for everyone.

I urge you to support Governor Kate Brown's call for including post-secondary education in the spending proposal before this committee.

Elise Realivasquez
901 5th Street
Oregon City, OR 97045
(971) 260-7062
RealElise92@gmail.com