

April 10, 2019

Co-Chair Roblan, Co-Chair Smith Warner, Co-Vice Chair Knopp, Co-Vice Chair Smith and
Members of the Joint Committee on Student Success

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 laid out in House Bill 2019 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 ever been.

In a single moment, a blood clot changed our lives forever. Nine years ago my dad survived an ischemic stroke that paralyzed his right side. He was the breadwinner and the sole operator of a metal fabrication business. Since he was self-employed and had Type 1 Diabetes, insurance quickly became too expensive. My parents lost their business, livelihood, and ended up with \$90,000 in hospital bills and no money to pay their mortgage.

I've always said that, "I've won the Parent Lottery," because they loved my siblings and me so much. Moving back home to help with his rehabilitation was the best decision I ever made. My mom and I became full time caregivers. We tested his blood glucose and gave insulin injections multiple times each day. We took turns helping him bathe, dress, and complete his physical therapy. I stayed and helped for three and a half years. My mom and I saved their house. He's now able to do small welding jobs. For him, being able to provide again is the best mental therapy available.

The experience changed me for the better; I re-prioritized what I considered valuable. My parents have shown me no matter the circumstances, diligence and consistent hard work will eventually improve my situation. I have brought this dedication to my education. I was admitted to the class of 2019 Radiologic Technologist program at Portland Community College and am currently finishing up my seventh of nine terms. With radiography being a backbone to so many modalities, I plan on acquiring the MRI and Mammography certifications as I mature in my career. I'm excited to be entering a field that offers me both the social human interaction and challenging scientific components. Community colleges help students like me launch our careers.

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

Brooke Anderson