



April 18, 2019

Co-Chairs Roblan and Smith-Warner and Members of the Committee,

I am writing today on behalf of the Fair Shot for All Coalition in support of the Student Success Act.

We rely on our tax system to fund our schools, health care, services for older Oregonians and keep our communities safe. But today, corporations are not paying their fair share. Corporate income taxes as a share of the state budget have dramatically decreased in the last few decades— with just around 6 percent of Oregon's funds coming from corporate income taxes. Meanwhile, working people, whether white, black or brown, are left to pick up the bill.

This inequitable tax and budget structure perpetuates racial and gender disparities in our economy and society, many of which were created by racist and other discriminatory economic policies in the first place. The current tax structure inappropriately places the burden on individuals rather than large corporations and primarily provides economic opportunities to those who already have resources. And at the same time, consistent disinvestment and cuts to critical services are disproportionately hurting women, people of color, immigrants, LGBTQ people, and working families.

We cannot have economic justice until we recognize and address the ongoing and historic set of policies that have held back people of color, the LGBTQ community, immigrants, and women.

The Student Success Act addresses some of these disparities and it makes targeted and meaningful investments in the outcomes and programs needed by students of color, low-income students, and students with disabilities.

By requiring corporations to pay their fair share we can invest in schools and our communities and start to make the shift towards a more equitable structure. We are glad to see that the bill exempts groceries and reduces the tax rates for lower incomes. We hope that you will continue to fight to make this bill as progressive and equitable as possible. Please support 3427 to raise \$2 Billion for our education system and invest in a fair shot at success for Oregon's students.