

# Oregon Student Association



May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019

To: House Committee on Education

RE: SB 859, Tuition Equity for Graduate Students

Dear members of the committee,

My name is Marissa Miles. I am currently a college student in Albany, Oregon and I attend Linn-Benton Community College. I am a member of the student leadership council as the student legislative affairs director. I am also in active in Estudiantes De Sol club located on campus. On campus they help the community to better understand why it is important for Latinos to further their education as well as spread the word on the background of their Countries. I am writing today to testify in support of SB 859.

I am personally impacted by tuition equity, and if tuition equity were not available to undergraduate students, I would not be able to pursue higher education. While I am very fortunate to receive support through the tuition equity program, many undocumented students in Oregon pursuing higher education still have to make hard decisions about their education due to the lack of resources for undocumented oregonians. Last week, I spoke with a classmate who's sister could not further her education because of how expensive out of state tuition is for graduate programs. Students should not be limited when trying to achieve their career goals due to restrictions the state has put on undocumented students.

Not only would tuition equity for graduate students support undocumented students in Oregon, it would also help the state and the economy overall. When all students have access to the full range of financial resources in order to complete their education, Oregon wins. A statewide student loan program accessible to undocumented students would remove an arbitrary

## **OREGON STUDENT ASSOCIATION**

For more information contact Perla Alvarez, Legislative Director [perla@orstudents.org](mailto:perla@orstudents.org) or 503-358-2927  
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financial barrier that exists for some Oregon students. Tuition equity is important to Oregon because it benefits the students as well as the state by developing students to take on important roles within our society, such as a teacher, doctor, or a lawyer. This is why I support SB 859 and encourage this committee to pass it. Please remember my story when voting on this bill. Thank you for letting me speak with you today.

Sincerely,

Marissa Miles

Linn-Benton Community College

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