

Hello to the members of the joint task force,

My name is Eugenie Ridenour and I am studying Community Development and Public Administration at Portland State University.

There is so much I want legislators to know about my experiences, and so much that my peers want legislators to know about theirs. As for me, when I was under 25, I did not qualify for FAFSA because my father made too much money and I was a dependent, but he actually could not afford to financially support me at all. I joined the Oregon Army National Guard in order to help pay for college, but they did not help me and my recruiter lied to me. The National Guard constantly created barriers to accessing financial resources and gave me misinformation about who qualified for the GI Bill.

I hope Oregon can come up with better ways to help students navigate accessing higher education. One way that could look is a mandatory student orientation that guides every student through campus resource centers, so a student with disabilities could be identified and directed toward the disability resource center. As it is now, many students with disabilities are unaware of the resources.

There is so much need out there, and college students are really struggling. HB2590 is important to support historically underrepresented students. It's a great way to ensure the voices of the many students across Oregon are heard.

Thank you for your consideration.

Eugénie Ridenour

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She/Her

ASPSU Senator

President of Transcadia Community Development Corporation

Office Hours: T/W/Th 12PM-5PM



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