

Hello to the Education Committee,

My name is Tali Ilkovitch and I am a student at Oregon State University.

I am here to ask you to join our students in supporting HB 2590, the Student Voice Bill.

This bill is all about making sure our colleges and universities work for all students and can help us graduate and get good paying jobs. Right now, our campuses aren't equipped to help everyone succeed. In my experience, I have found it extremely difficult to earn money to survive, perform advocacy work, and take full advantage of my education at the same time. I feel that the university system has been designed and optimized to tire out students and force us to perform so much labor between sustaining food and housing while fulfilling our degree requirements, that we don't have a lot of energy left to put towards the betterment of our conditions. What would help me is a focus on increased access to higher education and financial aid for underrepresented communities would empower me and my peers to be more active and involved in decision-making processes. We in our community know what we need the most, and having more resources would allow us more time to be our own leaders and make essential changes that will strengthen our prosperity and overall health.

There are many students with many different needs being met. This bill can help change that by creating a special committee to tour our campuses and look at what is working, and what is not working. This process would create an opportunity for students like me to be heard, that's why it is so important that you vote yes.

We really need to get college right in Oregon, because the future of our economy depends on it. The Oregon Employment Department projects that between 2019-2029, occupations that require higher levels of education for entry will grow fastest.

Please remember my story when you vote on this bill, and please join me in supporting HB 2590.

Thank you for your time,  
Tali Ilkovitch