

Dear Chair Alonso Leon and members of the House Education Committee,

For the record, my name is Eleazar Gamez and I am a policy coordinator intern for the Oregon Student Association for this Legislative session.

I, Eleazar Gamez, am a first-generation DACAmented college student. I am proud to be a Mexican immigrant and a DREAMer. Two years ago I lost my mother to cancer. And since then, I have assumed responsibility as a guardian for my younger brother Henry, who is 15 years of age. Henry is currently a sophomore in high school. My aspiration is not only to be a great big brother who he can look up to as a prime role model but also as an inspiration to move to pursue a post-secondary education upon graduating high school.

I am a full-time college student. Currently in my third year at Portland State University, and my focus of the study is Child, Youth & Family Studies with a certificate in Chicano Latino Studies. I also serve as director for a student-led organization titled "*Dream PSU*". Our mission as DREAM PSU is the following "to Unite, empower, and provide a space and resources for undocumented, immigrant, DREAMer, and DACA related communities and allies...." Aside from my role as Director, I also serve as a student member on a committee working to establish a Dreamer Student Success Center at Portland State University.

The reason for which I mention this is not to give you all a glimpse at my resume or of the leadership work I am currently doing for students at Portland State University. But rather because House Bill 2590 - Student Voice Bill would provide more opportunities for students such as myself from all across the state of Oregon to have a voice in the decisions that are made at the Legislative state level. Although I have faced hard times as head of household, guardian of my younger brother, full-time college student, leader, and a working member of our society, I know there are countless other college students in the state of Oregon who have challenges they face day after day.

This bill would allow four senators and four house representatives to go from institution to institution, from rural areas to big cities, from community colleges to four-year institutions, and learn about the hardships students face. Use these experiences to foster and lead the work you all do for college students in all levels and areas in the state of Oregon. It is with due diligence and responsibility that as serving members of the state of Oregon, you keep in mind the areas in which to create pathways for success for student constituents across the board where it is needed most.

With this being said, **can Oregon students count on your support for House Bill 2590?**