

Hello Chair Alonso-Leon, Co-chairs Neron and Weber, and members of the committee,

My name is Odalis Aguilar Aguilar and I am a student at the University of Oregon as well as a member of the Associated Students of the University of Oregon.

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, campuses are severely lacking support systems and retention staff that would better help students like me succeed. An ideal campus to me looks like transparency from administration. It includes investing to make higher education more accessible to the students who need the most support. A focus on increased access and affordability for underrepresented communities would mean that these resources might mean that, for many students, they might not have to work while attending school, especially undocumented students, student parents, and students who have to support their families more than what is "normal".

There are many students with many different needs that are not currently 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,

Odalis Aguilar Aguilar