



Dear Chair Dembrow and members of the Senate Education committee,

For the record, my name is Emily Wanous and I am the legislative director for the Oregon Student Association. I am here today in support of SB756, SB234, and SB235, which would allow Oregon to better serve currently incarcerated students.

As you know, the restoration of incarcerated folks being able to receive federal Pell grants is a big moment in the work being done within our criminal justice system to dismantle inequities. Education plays a key role in transforming lives by creating opportunities and hope, which is why these bills are so important. These bills would help Oregon improve and strengthen college programs in Oregon's prisons, as well as create a better understanding of how best to serve incarcerated students; which would open opportunities for incarcerated folks to better reintegrate themselves into society.

This bill is a step forward in the State's work of highlighting the inequities current policies play in reaffirming the institutionalized and systemic racism present in Oregon today. OSA appreciates the prioritization of these issues, as we believe all students in Oregon deserve the right to a quality, accessible and affordable postsecondary education.

Thank you for your time and I urge your "yes" vote on SB756, SB234, and SB235.

Emily Wanous (she/her)  
Legislative Director  
Oregon Student Association  
[emily@orstudents.org](mailto:emily@orstudents.org)