

Alejandra Lopez
House Committee on Education
Support HB 2412, -2 Amendments

March 18th, 2021

Chair Alonso Leon, Vice-Chair Neron and Weber, and Members of the House Education Committee,

My name is Alejandra Lopez, I'm a junior in high school, and I live in rural Oregon. I am a part of the TRIO programs: Talent Search and Upward Bound. I support HB 2412 with the adoption of the -2 Amendments. The proposed amendments include funding for different programs that help students pursue a college education and provide support for students like me.

As a first-generation student, I am the first one in my family to finish elementary school, middle school, and am now working on graduating high school. From a young age, I didn't have anyone to go to if I needed help with my math or spelling like many of my classmates did, English was my second language and I had to learn that on my own. I had to continue my path of education on my own most of the time since my parents weren't able to give me the guidance or help me with the subjects I was learning about in school. It was until I got into the TRIO programs that I had more guidance in working towards a college education. I rely on programs like TRIO to learn more about the college process and how I can get there. I have a great appreciation for my TRIO Advisor, Matt who has helped me enroll in college classes, fill out applications for summer programs, and take a look at colleges with me.

I have a great amount of gratitude for all the amazing TRIO Advisors who believe in students like me. I appreciate the amount of encouragement, support, and help that TRIO provides to students all across Oregon in helping them find their path to college.

TRIO provides programs that are essential to students from low-income households and youth from underrepresented communities in pursuing a college education. This program has impacted my life in a very positive way and I ask you, Members of the Education Committee, to please support HB 2412, with the proposed -2 Amendments so this program can continue impacting the lives of students across Oregon. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Alejandra Lopez