

March 18, 2021

Oregon House Education Committee
900 Court Street, NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: HB 2412, -2 Amendments

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

I'm writing to urge your support and adoption of the -2 amendments to HB 2412. This amendment includes funding for five different college access programs that were funded in the Governor's Recommended Budget. These five programs provide valuable access and support for low-income and historically underserved students to help them to achieve their post-secondary goals.

I'm currently working as a Peer Mentor mentoring sophomore students in the BUILD EXITO program. I was also an EXITO scholar during my undergraduate time. I can see the program's continuous strive to improve their methods to support students. Not only has EXITO provided students with experience and exposure to STEM undergraduate research, the program also provided support in many different aspects such as financial aid, professional/personal development, and networking opportunities. These supports were what got me through college and shaped how I want to continue with education and career. With the current pandemic, students have been facing multiple barriers and difficulties that affect their ability to succeed in college. Having more funding would greatly allow the BUILD EXITO program to provide support to students and offset some of the barriers.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Phuc Nguyen