

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

For the record my name is Maya Ward, I am a student at University of Oregon and a member of the ASOU as well as Oregon Student Association.

I am asking you to support HB 2093, which expands access to the Oregon Promise Program to students seeking their 4 year degree at universities.

As a student, I can tell you that there are not enough financial aid resources for students. Personally speaking, I usually work two jobs during the summer trying to save up money for the rest of the school year. During the school year, I often find myself having to make tough choices between food, textbooks, and rent. It is hard to focus on classwork and plan for the future when I have so many other concerns every day. I spend much of the week thinking about how to best budget and ration out my food and cooking and freezing large batches of food, and cutting coupons.

Right now I supplement my income with multiple internships, on-campus paid jobs, and I am lucky that I am able to get some help from my parents. But I still struggle, and so many others do as well. Right now, the resources available simply are not enough for myself and so many other students across the state. While there are other ways beyond this bill that we need to address this issue- such as investing much more money into financial aid, and changing Oregon Promise to a first dollar program rather than last dollar- HB 2093 and the amendments being considered will be a step in the right direction.

Please vote yes on this bill and thank you for your consideration.