



FROM THE OFFICE OF THE ASWOU SENATE PRESIDENT

Werner University Center #122| 345 Monmouth Ave. N.| Monmouth, OR 97361

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

My name is Liz Marquez Gutierrez, I am the Senate President of the Associated Students of Western Oregon University and a member of the Oregon Student Association. Today, I am writing to ask you to support and vote yes on HB 2093.

HB 2093 is part of what needs to be an ongoing process of the HECC, student leaders, and other stakeholders revisiting our financial aid structures in Oregon to ensure we reach a time in the near future where every student has the support they need to complete their degree. According to the HECC's 2018-2019 snapshot, 44% of Oregon students were unable to meet expenses with expected resources: family contributions, student earnings, and grant aid. Currently, even students who receive full Pell and full Oregon Opportunity Grant awards struggle to have enough money for rent, food, and textbooks because of the increasing cost of attendance at our institutions.

HB 2093 is one part of bringing us to a more equitable and accessible higher education system in Oregon. By expanding access to the Oregon Promise Grant, we are filling in some of the large gap in resources that exists for university students.

OSA also feels strongly that it is important that we go farther than just this legislation. The Oregon Promise needs to be a first dollar program rather than a last dollar program, and neither the Oregon Promise Grant nor the Oregon Opportunity Grant can truly do what they are intended until the legislature stops severely underfunding financial aid. With that being said, HB 2093 is an important action to take and I urge you to vote yes.

Thank you for your time,

Liz Marquez Gutierrez
ASWOU Senate President