

4/16/2021

To: Co-Chairs Johnson, Steiner-Hayward, and Rayfield, Co-Vice Chairs, and members of the committee,

My name is Peter O'Donnell, and I am a student at Rogue Community College in Medford, Oregon. I am writing to request your support for HB2835. Having a Benefits Navigator on my campus is important for me and others. Being in school full time and the amount of time doing homework takes up a lot of time, especially those with families. Having this program at our school has helped me and countless others achieve our goals worry free. The need for food while in school is vital for accomplishing your goals in getting a degree. You need the nutrients from food to perform at a higher level, and with the SNAP program I was able to achieve my Associates Degree without hunger. This program was a big part of me accomplishing my goal, whether it being extra help from tutors, or helping me with any problems that might occur while in school. It is really a good feeling knowing these people are pulling for you to achieve your goals.

The passing of this bill would help so many people at Rogue Community College like it has for myself. Being part of this program was one of the best choices I have made in my life. I am forever grateful, and I know that many others are grateful as well. I have graduated from RCC on March 26th, and plan on moving on to continuing education in hopes of achieving a certificate in Peer Support, and with the help of those from this program I will achieve that. Having HB2835 in our school will help so many like myself. This initiative works for the students, especially for those that are less fortunate.

Sincerely

Peter J O'Donnell