



Dear tri chairs Rayfield, Johnson, and Steiner Hayward and members of the committee,

For the record, my name is Emily Wanous and I am a constituent in Congressional District 3 and I am the Legislative Director of the Oregon Student Association.

The Oregon Opportunity Grant is currently funded at an amount that allows only 1 out of 4 qualifying students to receive the aid due to the extreme lack of funding to the program. Speaking from my own experience, I graduated from WOU as a first generation college student from Pendleton, Oregon. I was very lucky to receive a full Pell Grant and full Opportunity grant and yet still had to work in the school's dining hall to cover just tuition and fees--not including food or housing. The Opportunity grant was the difference between me not affording school and me speaking with you today. We ask that you fund the state based financial aid at the amount of \$290million which would cover students whose family income ranges between zero and \$100,000 a year.

After the impacts of this last year followed by extreme drops in enrollment, students cannot go through yet another tuition increase or cross campus cuts. We need the PUSF to be funded at a Current Service Level of \$900 million. We ask that this funding is connected to increased accountability from our four year institutions, such as what HB2542 and SB854 implements. Accurate levels of funding is vital if we expect to keep strong support services for students, especially low income and Black, Indigenous and Students of color. These programs that help students make it to the finish line are often the programs that are cut first in a cuts situation. If the State is committed to student's success, we need to commit to a \$900 million investment into the PUSF and a \$702 million to the CCSF.

Students have taken the initiative to work toward ameliorating the basic needs insecurities on their campus through the HB2835 the Basic Needs Navigator bill. I ask that the State commits \$5.2million to fund these positions to help ensure students are connected to federal and state benefit programs.

We ask the passage of Rep. Alonso Leon's #1 priority this session, HB2590, the student voice bill, passes out of Ways and Means. Lastly, student success is directly related to the quality education faculty are able to give and that is why students are supportive of SB551 and HB3007, part time faculty health care bill that would ensure faculty who work multiple part time gigs receive health care coverage. These bills are vital to support students in the aftermath of the pandemic. Thank you for your time and I ask that you support these important student investments.

Emily Wanous

Legislative Director

Oregon Student Association

emily@orstudents.org