

April 18, 2021

Ways and Means
900 State Street NE, Room H-178,
Salem OR 97301

RE: HB 5555

Chairs Johnson, Steiner Hayward, Rayfield and Members of the Committee,

During my time as Coordinator of Oregon State University's Music Education Program, I had the opportunity to mentor many students who would go on to become K-12 educators in communities across Oregon. When my former students tell me about the growth of their current students, I am reminded of the exponential returns that investment in higher education provides. I am so proud of their work.

I am writing to ask that you invest \$900M in the Public University Support Fund, as well as \$200M in the Oregon Opportunity Grant. Young people across the state and from every background, including many being taught by my former students, need this support so that the dream of going to college can become a reality. Perhaps better than anything else, a college education can provide equitable opportunities for all students, regardless of background or socio-economic status. A lack of investment would put additional barriers in front of young people who have already overcome so much and worked so hard to excel academically.

Please also consider investing \$86M in bond support to complete the renovation of Cordley Hall, a science education building on the Corvallis campus. More than 60% of undergraduate students participate in classes and activities at Cordley, meaning that the completion of this project will have a significant and positive impact for the majority of students, including those in my former department.

Thank you for considering these requests. OSU takes its responsibility to serve the people of our state very seriously, and I know that the support you provide will plant seeds that will blossom in every community in Oregon.

Best Regards,



Tina M. Bull, Ph.D
Professor Emeritus, Oregon State University
Member, Beaver Caucus Board of Directors