

Teri Walters
PSU Undergraduate- Communications and Political Science
ASPSU Vice President

Dear Chairs Rayfield, Steiner Hayfield, and Johnson and members of the Joint Ways and Means Committee,

I'm writing to ask that you please provide special consideration to HB 2835 and HB 2590 and **vote yes**.

HB 2835 would greatly increase the accessibility of basic needs programs which would in turn increase graduation rates and enrollment. Rising tuition and fees costs tied with a lack of sufficient state investment has resulted in students having to choose between succeeding in the classroom and having food on their plate. With a basic needs navigator college can be that stepping stone to a better life rather than a financial anchor.

HB 2590 Student voice bill will greatly impact the young BIPOC community across Oregon to make college an option. Right now higher education is a gate-keeping institution in a society where education is the defining factor in economic freedom. Oregon should be giving its residents the best opportunity possible to succeed, not withholding success. Higher education in Oregon needs more funding to become accessible for all of its students, and that process starts here.

Thank you for your consideration and please vote yes on both bills,
-Teri Walters