

Hello members of the ways and means committee,

My name is Megan Schatz and I am a student at Lane Community College working towards a degree in Biology. Today I am asking for you to invest \$290 M in the Oregon Opportunity Grant, the state's largest need based financial aid program.

I receive the Oregon Opportunity Grant. The strain on myself and my family of paying for school during this pandemic is immense. Monetary issues aside, the uncertainty surrounding my and others students' access to grant funding for school is by far the biggest stressor in my educational career.

Right now, over  $\frac{3}{4}$  of Oregon students who qualify for and need the Oregon Opportunity Grant do not receive it, purely due to severe underfunding. If Oregon is going to recover from COVID-19, it is vital that we invest in student aid so that students can afford to finish degrees and find good paying jobs after school. Now is a critical time to get the state where it needs to be regarding financial aid access.

Please remember my story as you work with your colleagues to set the budget for the next biennium, and please invest \$290 M in the Oregon Opportunity Grant. Thank you.