

Hello members of the ways and means committee,

My name is Elizabeth Castillo-Salazar and I am a student at the University of Oregon working towards a degree in Cinema Studies and Journalism. Today I am asking for you to invest \$290 M in the Oregon Opportunity Grant, the state's largest need based financial aid program.

In order to afford tuition and fees, textbooks, rent, and food I have been forced to pull out loans and borrow money. This impacts me by making it hard for me to perform well in school as well as causing mental health problems. Because of this at times I have considered not attending anymore.

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.