

Hello to the ways and means committee,

My name is Sabrina Murillo and I am going to the U of O working towards becoming a social worker with a focus in domestic and sexual abuse within adolescents.

I am a first-generation student with the burden of having to pay my school entirely- due to the low-income financial status my family holds. I am currently in 200k debt due to the loans I had to take out to be able to afford school. I cannot take any extra classes for stay a longer term because I can't afford it, therefore I have no choice but to try my hardest to pass all my classes. I do not currently receive the Oregon Opportunity Grant.

The cost of attendance and the cost of living has impacted my college experience tremendously. I work a minimum wage job to be able to pay my rent of 660 a month. My family is unemployed due to covid and we are low-income, so I pay my own rent and school because my family is always tight on money, unfortunately. I work 9 hr shift 5 days a week to be able to live paycheck by paycheck. I focus more on paying my rent every month than I do focusing on my classes- not by choice, but I can't afford to miss a day of work or else I won't have shelter or food.

My parents have tried their hardest and left no stone unturned in trying to help me access more financial aid. I have taken out 3 loans at the moment to pay my school- it's a 12% interest rate on top of the money borrowed so I have more debt than wanted, again not by choice but because I can't afford the University of Oregon out of pocket.

Please invest \$290 M in the Oregon Opportunity Grant; current funding levels simply aren't enough for all the need there is right now.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sabrina Murillo