

Chairs and members of the committee, for the record my name is Kathryn Long, and I teach English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) at Clackamas Community College. Students in our program transition into numerous other programs at the college, such as automotive, welding, horticulture, and dental assistant. For example, one of my current students plans to enter our CNC Operator certificate program. Another student plans to enter our CNA 2 program soon. While some students are interested in improving their English skills to find a better job, others aim to communicate more effectively with their children's teachers or others in the community.

Many students who were previously unable to participate, due to working multiple jobs or having small children at home, currently have access to effective remote language instruction. Some take classes while on lunch break at work, and nursing moms don't have to put off learning the language skills they need right now. However, remote instruction doesn't solve all of our problems. We can't provide technical support to every student, and internet connectivity isn't always possible or reliable for our students. We need to find a way to provide both remote and in-person instruction for our students who face the greatest barriers to economic stability.

The Community College Support Fund needs to be \$702 million so that our students can improve their lives and contribute to a more diverse, productive society. Without that level of funding, community colleges will see cuts to critical programs – like ESOL – and increases of tuition over 3.5%. Communities can't afford either of these at a time when colleges will be needed more than ever to get us out of the recession.

If ever there was a time to invest rather than save, it is now. Please make community college funding a priority this legislative session. Thank you so much for your time and consideration.

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