

Hello to the Ways and Means Committee,

My name is Carlos Fonseca Jr and I am a student at Western Oregon University.

I am here to ask you to join our students in supporting HB 2590, the Student Voice Bill by giving it full funding.

If I were to think of a campus that was fully accessible and inclusive, I envision a campus that has an abundance of support services for the students while being as affordable as possible. I think of my current university and how students have to wait weeks, if not months to meet with a counselor at our Health and Counseling center due to the significant under-staffing and increased student need.

As a first generation college student, there is a large knowledge gap between myself and students who aren't first gen in regards to what the processes and procedures are within a university. There was a lot of "figuring it out on my own" due to a lack of resources and support for first gen students.

I believe that increased access and financial resources would greatly impact the communities I represent. I know many folks who never applied to college simply because they did not know how to.

Please remember my story when you vote on budgets and please fully fund HB 2590.

Thank you for your time,

Carlos Fonseca Jr