

Co-Chairs Frederick, McLain, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Justin Bier, and I live in Portland, Oregon. I am a student at the University of Oregon. I respectfully request that you support robust investments in public higher education, including funding the Public University Support Fund at \$900 million, and the Oregon Opportunity Grant at \$200 million.

As a student at the University, I've seen firsthand how the pandemic has affected the educational quality of one of Oregon's finest institutions. This is my junior year, and I started it out in Eugene, hoping to spend some time with brothers in my fraternity. However, I was soon diagnosed with COVID-19, and as a result was forced to quarantine in a hotel for ten days. Although I did not struggle paying for the hotel bills myself, and have had no issue paying for tuition in general during the pandemic, I can see less fortunate students struggling to pay for these bills. Thus, these grants and funds are necessary in order to adequately compensate students should they be unable to pay for their college tuition. Furthermore, the pandemic has had a negative impact on the ability for college graduates to get jobs. As Oregon's economy is attempting to get back on its feet, it is imperative that my peers are not left behind, saddled with student debt in a difficult job market. It is thus imperative that you support these funds and grants in order to return Oregon's students to some degree of normalcy, for without them, Oregon's college students are essentially left in the educational wilderness, unable to pay for tuition without the help of funds such as these.

I hope that you can take into consideration the financial burden weighing upon students during these difficult times.

Sincerely,

Justin Bier
University of Oregon