

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

My name is Hanson Pham and I live in Portland; I am currently finishing up my senior year at the University of Oregon. I respectfully request that you support robust investments in public higher education, including funding the Oregon Opportunity Grant at \$200 million. As a first-generation American and a first-generation college student, without the Oregon Opportunity Grant, it would not have been possible for me to reach higher education. Many of my peers, who also come from lower socio-economic backgrounds, also rely on the state in order to achieve their goals of one day obtaining a degree. As the pandemic presses on, many communities out there continue to suffer, especially those who come from under-served, lower-income populations. With further funding of the Oregon Opportunity Grant, perhaps we can make a change in the lives of those who need it the most—those who dream about changing their own lives and the lives of generations to come. Those like myself.

Funding limitations have meant that the grant is not available to thousands of students who demonstrate significant financial need. Funding for the OOG should be increased in order to provide a realistic possibility of college affordability for Oregon's low- and middle-income students.

Thank you for serving our community. I know you will be forced to make tough budget decisions this session, and I hope you will prioritize funding for the Oregon Opportunity Grant. It's time for Oregon to restore access to opportunity for all Oregon students.

Sincerely,  
Hanson Pham