

May 10, 2021

Oregon State Legislature  
Joint Committee on Ways & Means Subcommittee on Education  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain, and Members of the Subcommittee on Education:

I am a product of public school education. I grew up in a very rough and gritty neighborhood, The Back of the Yards, on the south side of Chicago. Seemingly, the Mexican and Polish immigrants that dominated my neighborhood, the parents, did not place a premium on getting an education beyond high school. It seemed as long as a young person did not drop out of high school moms and dads were happy. After high school, there was nothing wrong with getting a job to help pay the household bills.

As we know, the amount of money a high school graduate can make is minimal compared to what a college graduate can make. I am a great example of this. Prior to embarking on my higher education journey, I became a working person immediately after high school. Having money at a young age was nice, but through the help of some family and friends, I was able to see this kind of economic living was going to be very limited.

My higher education journey started at Mt. Hood Community College. This was a great starting point for me as I endeavored to get a college education. The staff is incredibly helpful in mapping out a student's educational goals. Once you start classes, the faculty and their pedagogy is at such a high level. Their expectation of your learning will only help you later in life, especially if it includes continuing your education at the university level. MHCC prepared me so well for my next level of education.

For these reasons, and there are many others, but you're busy and so am I, so I'll just cut to the ultimate request here, I would love to see you allocate my tax dollars towards supporting Oregon community college's by way of SB 5528 and HB 2907. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Gregory C. Gomez