

testimony

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

My name is Natalie Fisher, and I live in Springfield. I am currently a Double Duck and just completed my second year of law school at UO. I am submitting testimony today to 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.

Funding for Oregon's public universities creates opportunities for all Oregon students, and it is more critical now than ever. The pandemic has exacerbated existing inequities for BIPOC, lower-income, and rural students. It is critical that colleges and universities have adequate resources to address these disparities and ensure that all students have access to opportunity. Additionally, 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.

As a student senator with the Associated Students of the University of Oregon (ASUO), I had the opportunity to work with my peers this past academic year to prioritize our funding around student basic needs. Your support of the PUSF and the OOG is a critical component in creating an equitable campus community. In order to continue serving students throughout their higher education experience, we rely on your support and funding.

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 public education.

Sincerely,

Natalie Fisher
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