

Hello Members of the the Ways and Means committee,

My name is Jerrel Brown, a recent graduate from the University of Oregon. I'm speaking with you today to implore you all to vote to fully fund the Oregon Opportunity Grant at 290 million dollars the Community College support fund for 702 million dollars and the public university support fund for total of 900 million dollars, as well as 2 Express the explicit need for your support on both house bills 2590 student voice Bill and House Bill 2835 basic needs Navigator bills.

as it stands the oregon opportunity Grant is funded at 152 million dollars. This is problematic because at that funding level only one in four students who qualify to receive the grant will receive it. Again these are not folks that made a mistake in applying for the grant these aren't folks that or just accidentally being missed and not being allocated her grant money, but there is not enough money in the fund to make sure that those that qualify for it receive it. In order to fully fund this we would need 290 million dollars in Oregon make sure that students whose parents make between 0 and \$100,000 annually will receive assistance.

I implore you to fully fund the ccsf at 720 million dollars in the P USF and 900 million dollars Ensure that the higher education does not become even more unaccessible, as institutions will never lie raise tuition if there is no other available fun to offset costs. This asked a lines with both the Oregon Community College Association and the Oregon council president for universities, so please take that into consideration when considering whether or not to pass these initiatives.

We need to pass House Bill 2835 for basically Navigators on every Campus in Oregon, 2 help students gain access to the resources already readily available, if not easily accessible. it cannot be overstated when I say that if I did not have access to food stamps as a college student, there is no feasible way that I would have been able to support myself. I would not have been able to get through college, I would not have been ultimately successful in graduating getting my degree as I did last March 2020 without that support. People tend to forget that most college students especially non-traditional college students or not living some Carefree lifestyle of somebody just getting to exist while getting their education, they existing on the margins. Working multiple jobs, missing sleeve skipping meals, in generally suffering so they can get an education and be competitive on the workforce. However navigating basic needs services such as getting food stamps such as getting wet can be super complicated, time-consuming and generally unacceptable for folks trying to receive those services. this is a super-low financial impact house bill that you can vote on that will have a huge effect on the prosperity of students in Oregon. So please think about that when your house bill 2835 the basic leave Navigators.

And finally I urge you to support Student Voice Bill (HB 2590) as a necessary measure to take the next step in streamlining our education system. By prioritizing and elevating

student voices and experiences, we can improve our post-secondary and higher education Institutions.

To close I urge you to the **Fully fund the OOG at \$290M, the CCSF at \$702M, the PUSF at \$900M, and vote yes on House Bill 2590 and House Bill 2835.**

Thank you