

Hello Chair Senate Majority Leader Wagner, Vice-Chair Senate Republican Leader Girod, and members of the Senate Committee on Rules,

For the record, my name is Eleazar Gamez, currently a third-year student attending Portland State University. I am also a Policycoordinatorr intern for the Oregon Student Association. I am here before you today to talk about Senate Bill 854.

As a Current Student, there are issues and items I would like to discuss with those who have the power to make the necessary change on my campus. However, their information such as an email address is nowhere to be found. How can I advocate and bring awareness from a student perspective when there's nowhere to share my voice? If there is a bill that I would like to discuss and advocate for, such as right now, I know I can personally reach out to ya'lls office to express my concerns. However, with higher education institutions across our state, when a student wants to express their concerns and share their voice to those in power to make the necessary changes, there's no place to contact them.

We as students do not have access to the Board of Trustees, their email, or any form of communication. It should be mandatory for students, paying students of these institutions to be able to communicate and have access to reach out to the decision-makers, Board of Trustees, in regards to what is occurring on their institution that impacts the very same students. Further work needs to happen to increase transparency with the board of trustees system, however this bill is a critical point to begin this work. For this reason, I urge you to vote in support of Senate Bill 854, so that students such as myself have means of communication with the board of trustees.

Thank you for your time and consideration.