

Chair Alonso Leon and Members of the Committee,

For the record, my name is Suzan Aljawher, I am a student at Treasure Valley Community College in Ontario. I am writing to request your support for **HB2835**.

We are a refugee family who has needed help to be successful in the College. When I started my college classes, I could not see the way to be successful in this new country. We needed someone to show us our way. At first, we had nothing. We needed a home for our family; we needed food for ourselves and our family. Then we were able to get SNAP and help with other expenses. I came to the college to take classes to improve my English and language skills. Then I was introduced to STEP to help me pay for my school and books and supplies. I was very happy to find out I would have help to meet these needs, even someone who could help me understand assignments and projects. Now I am very close to graduating with a good education and training that will help me find a good job so I can support my own family. This is so necessary for many students who cannot see their way without the help.

Thank you for the consideration and for your service.

Suzan Aljawher, Ontario, OR

**Here is my video testimony:**

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1zWhgiURBX7y6aLw9g6gzIUJMBvs-qQm1/view?usp=sharing>

Reference: STEP is a benefit program, this is Oregon's SNAP Employment and Training Program. The program is part of our collective Pathways to Opportunity program. STEP is only available to a small number of students. Having a benefit navigator means all students like Susan get connected to STEP and many other benefits.