



Oregon Student Association

February 10, 2021

Chair Dembrow, Vice-Chair Thomsen, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Andrew Rogers, I am the Executive Director of the Oregon Student Association and I am asking you to vote yes on SB 564.

In our work with college students, we find that student parents meet a unique set of struggles and have a unique set of needs, in addition to the many universal struggles of Oregon students regarding food and housing insecurity and outrageous tuition and textbook costs.

OSA has proudly done work over the years to support the needs of our student parents, and SB 564 is a critical bill to continue that work.

We have long realized that in order to meet the needs of a community, collection of data regarding that community is a vital first step. This legislation does just that for student parents, and we really need the data this bill would generate in order to thoughtfully partner with student parents and successfully ensure they are able to succeed in school, earn degrees, and secure financial prosperity for themselves and their families.

We know from the National Postsecondary Student Aid Study that more than one in five college students—or 22 percent of all undergraduates—are parents, according to new analysis of data from. Oregon simply cannot afford to continue to set higher education policy without a clear understanding of these students and the barriers they face.

Please join us in supporting SB 564, and thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Andrew Rogers,

OSA Executive Director

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OREGON STUDENT ASSOCIATION

The Oregon Student Association (OSA) is a statewide, student-led advocacy and organizing non-profit established in 1975 to represent, serve, and protect the collective interests of students in postsecondary education in Oregon

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