



Testimony on House Bill 4066
House Veterans and Emergency Management Committee
February 1, 2022

Chair Grayber, Vice-Chairs Lewis and Meek, and members of the Committee. My name is Kyle Thomas and I am the Director of Legislative and Policy Affairs for the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC). Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on HB 4066. My comments are limited to Section 9, the provision addressing Oregon Promise for Oregon National Guard Members.

Section 9 provides that a member of the Oregon National Guard does not need to accept federal financial aid awards in order to receive the Oregon Promise grant. If passed, Oregon National Guard members would be the only program participants not required to accept federal financial aid as a condition of receiving their award. The Oregon Promise financial aid program is what is known as a 'last dollar' program, meaning the benefit applies after the application of other benefits, and provides funds up to the cost of the average tuition and fees at Oregon community colleges. By allowing Oregon National Guard members to decline federal educational aid, the state program pays more to cover the missing federal aid, but the benefit to the student remains the same.

Additionally, Oregon National Guard members in good standing are served by the Oregon National Guard Tuition Assistance Program (ONG-STA), a program that covers the tuition and fee costs of National Guard members, regardless of federal aid, and provides additional awards on top to mitigate other costs of attendance. The only guard members that do not qualify for the ONG-STA program are those who are not active, or who have adverse actions.

HECC has provided a chart that shows the relationship between state and federal financial aid for Oregon National Guard members. This chart illustrates the effect of HB 4066 on a student-guard member's financial aid picture.

Thank you for your time today.

HB 4066 (Section 9) ONG Members and OPG Regarding Title IV Funds		Total Tuition Amount		Additional Funding to be Used Towards Additional Cost of Attendance		
1	ONG member ONGSTA eligible, FTA eligible, Fed Title IV accepted, OPG eligible, prior to HB 4066 (Typical Army National Guard Member)	DoD Federal Tuition Assistance	ONGSTA	Title IV	ONGSTA Book Allowance	ONGSTA Average Standard Fees
		<i>150% Tuition</i>				
2	ONG member ONGSTA eligible, FTA Exempt, Fed Title IV accepted, OPG eligible, prior to HB 4066 (Typical Air National Guard member)	ONGSTA		Title IV	ONGSTA Book Allowance	ONGSTA Average Standard Fees
		<i>150% Tuition</i>				
●	3	ONG member not ONGSTA eligible, FTA Exempt, Fed Title IV accepted, and OPG eligible, prior to HB 4066 (Non-Typical National Guard Member under specific circumstances)	Title IV	OPG		
		<i>100% Tuition</i>				
●	4	ONG member not ONGSTA eligible, FTA Exempt, Fed Title IV declined, and OPG eligible, after HB 4066 (Non-Typical National Guard Member under specific circumstances)	OPG			
		<i>100% Tuition</i>				
5	ONG member ONGSTA eligible, FTA eligible, Fed Title IV declined, OPG eligible, after HB 4066	DoD Federal Tuition Assistance	ONGSTA	ONGSTA Book Allowance	ONGSTA Average Standard Fees	
		<i>100% Tuition</i>				
6	ONG member ONGSTA eligible, FTA Exempt, Fed Title IV declined, OPG eligible, after HB 4066	ONGSTA		Book Allowance	ONGSTA Average Standard Fees	
		<i>100% Tuition</i>				
				Gold Shaded - Federal Funded Aid		Blue Shaded - State Funded Aid