

To: Chair Lively and Members of the Higher Education Committee  
From: Alyson Kraus, Director of State Government Relations, Portland State  
Date: March 20, 2023  
RE: HB 3120 Request for a new Amendment

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Chair Lively and Members of the Committee:

I'm writing you in support of the intention and objectives of the -2 Amendment to HB 3120. Unfortunately, the -2 amendment as currently written, excludes programs at Public Universities that have a proven history of success in increasing enrollment and completion of historically underrepresented groups at post-secondary institutions.

In that last biennium [BUILD EXITO](#) was allocated \$1 million to support undergraduate students from diverse backgrounds who are interested in pursuing research careers in biomedical, behavioral, clinical, health, and social sciences. The program takes students through a research training program where they receive mentoring, gain hands-on experience, and engage in a supportive community.

I respectfully request that the committee request a new amendment that will allow programs like BUILD EXITO to receive grants from these funds.

Below is the change to the -2 amendment we would suggest to include access to the public universities:

**“SECTION 1. (1) The Higher Education Coordinating Commission shall establish a grant program for the purpose of supporting organizations that expand the scope and community reach of college access and success programs.**

**“(2) In order to be eligible to receive a grant under this section, an organization must:**

**“(a)(A) Be a not-for-profit corporation that is tax exempt under section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code; or**

**“(B) Be a public university listed in ORS 352.002; or**

**“~~(B)~~(C) Be a community-based organization; and....**

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Alyson Kraus  
Director of State Government Relations  
Portland State University