

Submitter: Madeline Frisk

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Higher Education

Measure: HB3499

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 3499. I currently work at Portland State University as the adviser to student government and greek life. I am submitting this testimony because I value what this bill could do for our students and the overall campus community at PSU.

Most of my students work 2-3 jobs in the Portland community and on campus to be able to afford the tuition and fees we charge and that is even with having cheaper mandatory fees than other universities here in Oregon. Not to mention we are an emerging HSI, have a high percentage of transfer students, and serve a diverse student body which most often stays right here in Oregon and Portland and gives back to our state. Our students are struggling to meet their basic needs but are still doing so much for their peers and their community by being involved in student leadership roles on campus, volunteering in their communities, and even still they know that without further investment the PSU they see now will not be the same. They are seeing the amount of external support institutions such as OSU and UO receive while regional institutions with students who stay here in Oregon are given pennies and UO and OSU are even building programs to directly compete with ours. This shift in higher education in Oregon has made us all (but primarily regional institutions such as PSU, SOU, OIT, EOU, and WOU) feel the encroachments of competition and scarcity mindset and this bill could shift that narrative drastically. This bill could show that the Oregon legislature values accessible public higher education as much as it does accessible public K-12 education. Access to higher education provides an opportunity for all Oregonians to pursue passions and careers that they value and feel knowledgeable about. It gives them the chance to make friends, to be in community, to access campus resources such as the Native American Student and Community Center, our cultural resource centers, queer resource center, womens resource center, disability resource center and so much more!