

Submitter: Ben Fryer  
On Behalf Of: University of Oregon  
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means  
Measure: SB5506

Chairs Senator Steiner and Representative Sanchez and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to share my support of higher education funding. My name is Ben Fryer and I currently reside in Eugene, Oregon. My whole life I have been a student, learning and growing. All those years of growth have happened in public education centers. Higher education is so important and should be available for everyone no matter their familial background.

Specifically, I want to advocate for the continuation of the Oregon Tribal Grant. Recently I have been helping the University of Oregon Native American Student Union host the 55th annual Mother's Day Powwow. The Native community on campus is a vibrant and inclusive place. These students have long been underserved by state higher education funding. Adding an additional \$200 million to the Tribal Grant Program will greatly benefit the Native community.

Please support higher education by giving \$1.05 billion to the Public University Fund so more people can afford a college degree.

Thank you.