

Submitter: Christian Walker
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure: SB5506

Dear Chair Steiner and Sanchez and members of the Ways and Means Committee, My name is Chris Walker and I am a student at the University of Oregon studying Planning, Public Policy, and Management. I'm a first generation college student who wants to see my peers and myself survive economically. A college degree is essential in this modern economy and NOT a privilege for the rich. The current budget's cuts to higher education funding is disgraceful. It is not an investment in our future, upward mobility for everyday citizens, or drawing jobs into our state. I have to work to pay for my high college tuition and my parents have thankfully saved up enough money to get me by. Oregon is currently ranked 45th in the nation for higher education funding, and would slide even further back if this new budget goes through. 1/3rd of all UO students are food insecure -- in the richest country in the world. \$1.05bil is the bare minimum. It won't even place us near the national average. We must do better. But for now we must at least stay the same.

Support Oregon's future, as well as youth who want to be upwardly mobile without crushing, criminal student debt.

Thank you for your support in changing this inadequate budget proposal,

Chris Walker

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