

Submitter: Mark Pilkenton  
On Behalf Of: University of Oregon  
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means  
Measure: SB5506

Co-Chairs Sanchez and Steiner and members of the committee,

My name is Mark Pilkenton and I live in Portland, Oregon. I am a University of Oregon alum and respectfully requesting that you support robust investments in public higher education. We are asking for \$1.05 billion dollars for the Public University Support Fund and an additional \$200 million for the Oregon Opportunity Grant.

Evidence of Oregon's disinvestment in higher education can be seen all over Portland and in other urban parts of the state. If we want to give Oregonians a chance to get a good job we must make higher education more affordable! Supporting low-income Oregonians on their path to a sustainable future, is critical. As well as more funding for wraparound services to meet the growing needs of students of all backgrounds. Budget cuts to higher education would be particularly harmful given the fragile state of our economy.

When I heard that Oregon currently ranks 45th in the nation for per student funding, I was appalled. It's time for us to invest in students and invest in Oregon's economy with the full funding request of \$1.05 billion for the Public University Support Fund, additional funding for the Oregon Opportunity Grant and the continued funding of the Tribal Grants Program.

Thank you for serving our community. I know you will be faced with tough budget decisions this session but I hope you will prioritize funding for public higher education.

Respectfully,  
Mark Pilkenton  
Portland, OR