

Submitter: Sue Hodge
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure: SB5506
Joint Ways and Means Committee
Roseburg, Oregon

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

My name is Sue Hodge and I live in Canby, Oregon. I have a grandchild who is college age. I worry that without investments in public higher education much bigger than those that are proposed for the 2023-2025 budget, he will not be able to attend university. I respectfully request that you support Oregon's students by funding the Public University Support Fund (PUSF) at \$1.05 billion and increasing the Oregon Opportunity Grant (OOG) by \$200 million.

When my children's father and I were first married we didn't have a lot and neither of us had a college degree. We depended on food stamps from time to time and there were Christmas' that we couldn't afford to put much under the tree. We wished and hoped for a life for our children that was better than what we were able to provide when they were kids. And today we want the same for our grandchildren.

My grandson is a very bright young man who is interested in World Music and Anthropology. I want him to be able to explore these interests at University of Oregon, but I know that the current high cost of living and the high cost of books and tuition might make it out of his reach. You, as legislators, can help make it possible. You can invest in my grandson and kids just like him. A \$1.05 billion budget will allow public universities to continue offering education and services for students at the current levels without increasing tuition beyond 5 percent at most universities. In addition to investing in the PUSF and OOG, I encourage you to keep the funding for tribal student grants, to help fund undergraduate tuition, housing, books, and other costs for eligible, enrolled members of Oregon's Tribes. After so many years of pushing native communities onto reservations that were not where they originated, and underinvesting in these communities, we have to take responsibility to continue to fund the tribal grant program.

Thank you for your service to our State and thank you for supporting Oregon's students and public higher education institutions.

Respectfully,

Sue Hodge
Canby, Oregon