

Submitter: Kyra Solis

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Higher Education

Measure: SB269

My name is Kyra Solis, and I'm a graduate of the University of Oregon, and former intern for the University of Oregon Prison Education Program (PEP). I am writing in support of SB 269, in the hopes of creating a stronger access to higher education in prison.

The PEP was instrumental to me developing my critical thinking, public speaking, and writing skills — the basis for liberal arts education. As both a student and Learning Assistant for the program, I saw incarcerated and on-campus students grow in a similar way. Pushing themselves beyond what they thought they were capable of, to engage in thought and discussion deeply and honestly.

Despite the students' commitment to learning, there were barriers in access to word processors, ability to research relevant information and current events, and information about educational offerings.

SB 269 would allow for more support for DOC staff and incarcerated students, and reaffirms Oregon's commitment to making education available to all. When incarcerated students are released, they are coming back as our neighbors, coworkers, and more. Supporting their education makes our community stronger, and I sincerely hope you vote yes on SB 269.

Warmly,

Kyra Solis"