

Submitter: Scott Lindberg

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Education

Measure: HB5025

Chairs McLain and Fredrick and members of the committee, for the record my name is Scott Lindberg and I am a faculty member working at Rogue Community College in Grants Pass. Students at RCC are facing multiple challenges to access higher education, including but not limited to the high cost of living in the Rogue Valley, increased food and energy costs, and difficulties accessing affordable child care. Each of these things (and many more) represent barriers to obtaining vital post-secondary education that will assist members of our community with achieving their dreams, boost lifetime earning potential, and fuel the grassroots economic development engine that makes Oregon an attractive and interesting place in which to live.

Lower enrollment and decreased revenue does not mean that our students' needs have also diminished. In fact, due to the pandemic we have seen the needs of our students dramatically increase. Assistance from the Higher Education Coordination Commission is critical to the success of community colleges across the state. Therefore, in order to truly support our students for the next two years, we need appropriations to the Community College Support Fund of at least \$855 million to meet students' needs and support the important work done by Oregon's community colleges

Thank you for your time and consideration. I remain,

Very truly yours

Scott Lindberg