

Chair Hudson, Vice Chairs Fragala and Harbick, and members of the committee,

My name is Nutong Benjamin Her and I am a TRiO UBMS Advisor at Oregon State University. I am writing in strong support of HB 2997, which will establish a designated grant fund within HECC to support college access and success programs for underrepresented students in Oregon.

**[Share your personal story. Consider the following:]**

Programs targeting first generation and/or low-income students are crucial in leveling the field for these students and providing them opportunities to grow. Having been a coordinator for the Intercultural Mentoring Program Advancing Community Ties (IMPACT) at the University of Oregon and now an advisor for TRiO UBMS at Hillsboro High School has placed me in a position to directly make an impact and see firsthand the success these students are capable of. These students simply need a community to support and push them towards their aspirations, and I wish to see community based programs have the funding to continue in their mission of supporting underrepresented students.

Programs like TRiO have helped countless students navigate financial aid, succeed academically, and persist to graduation. Without sustainable funding, many students will lose critical resources that support their college journey.

I urge you to **support HB 2997** to ensure that these essential programs continue to serve students across Oregon. Thank you for your time and consideration.

**Sincerely,**

Nutong Her

Oregon State University TRiO UBMS