

Submitter: Trisha Stout  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Education  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB604

Chair Frederick, Vice Chair Weber, and members of the committee,

My name is Trisha Stout, and I am an Academic Advisor at Eastern Oregon University (EOU). I am writing in support of SB 604: The Strong Start Program at Oregon's Public Universities, which will continue funding for programs that give underrepresented students the support they need to find success as they start their journey in higher education.

I believe every person deserves the chance to continue their education beyond high school. That belief was instilled in me at a young age by my parents who did not complete their college educations. I was privileged to go on to study at EOU without many barriers in life prior to starting college, and as an Advisor, I quickly realized that is not the case for most of our students that attend EOU.

I care about Strong Start getting refunded because I see first hand the positive impact the funding has provided to our community, our campus, and most importantly, our students. The students that receive Strong Start funds are quickly becoming leaders on our campus and able to see their education dreams come true. Wouldn't you love to know you helped make their dreams a reality?

Thank you for your time, and I hope I can count on your support of SB 604, the Strong Start Program.

Sincerely,  
Trisha Stout