

Submitter: Paige Jackson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Higher Education and Workforce  
Development

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2997

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

I strongly support HB 2997, which will establish a dedicated grant fund within HECC to sustain college access programs for underrepresented students. Programs like TRIO provide essential guidance, financial aid navigation, and academic support to first-generation and low-income students. Yet, inconsistent funding threatens these critical services. HB 2997 ensures equitable, stable funding so organizations can focus on student success rather than financial uncertainty. By investing in these programs, we strengthen Oregon's workforce and economy. I urge your support for HB 2997 to keep these life-changing resources available. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Paige Jackson

Assistant Provost, Enrollment Management & Student Success  
Western Oregon University