

To the Members of the Oregon House Committee on Higher Education and Workforce Development,

I am Sophie, the previous Oregon HOSA State President, and I am writing in support of House Bill 2553, which would ensure that students who have earned an Oregon Promise grant continue to maintain their eligibility while participating in career and technical student organizations like HOSA.

As a student who has been deeply involved in HOSA, I can attest to the profound impact that career and technical education programs have on students. For me, HOSA has been a platform where I've not only developed leadership skills but also learned the importance of community service, public health advocacy, and healthcare. Throughout my time in HOSA, I've had the opportunity to connect with peers who share my passion for healthcare and social change. We've worked together on projects, raised awareness for ethical causes, and participated in community events. These experiences have helped shape my future aspirations and have given me the tools to be a leader both in my community and in the healthcare field.

However, one of the most challenging aspects of pursuing my passion for healthcare and leadership has been balancing financial pressures with my commitment to these organizations. Through my involvement in HOSA, I've gained invaluable real-world experience, but many students like myself struggle to maintain their financial aid eligibility while balancing both academic work and extracurricular involvement. HB 2553 offers a solution by allowing students like me to continue receiving support through Oregon Promise without fear of losing that support for engaging in activities that build our skills and prepare us for our future careers.

This bill will benefit students from all backgrounds, particularly those who are striving to make a difference in fields like healthcare, education, and public service. The financial support provided by Oregon Promise is crucial for many students to attend college and pursue their dreams. By ensuring that students involved in career-focused organizations can continue to access this support, we are encouraging the next generation of leaders to take full advantage of their educational opportunities without being held back by financial concerns.

I urge the committee to pass HB 2553 and support the students who are dedicated to their education, their communities, and their futures.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Sophie  
24-25 Oregon HOSA State President