

March 20, 2025

Chairs Lieber and Sanchez, Vice Chairs Girod, Gomberg & Smith, and members of the committee:

My name is Amy Magnussen, and I am the Pre-College TRIO Director at Clatsop Community College. Our program serves 671 first-generation and low-income (6-12 grade) students across four schools in Clatsop County, helping them navigate the path to higher education. I am writing to express my strong support for HB 2997, which will establish a designated grant fund within the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) to support college access and success programs for underrepresented students in Oregon.

Just this year, our program directly benefited from HECC grant funds, which allowed us to provide critical support for our students. These funds made it possible to expand our college campus visits, giving students the opportunity to experience campus life and envision themselves in higher education. They also supported FAFSA workshops and incentives, helping families navigate the complex financial aid process. Additionally, we were able to cover food costs for family engagement events and fund activities that make college feel like an attainable goal for our students.

Programs like TRIO are life-changing for students who may not otherwise see higher education as a viable option. Without this support, many students would struggle to access essential resources that improve their chances of college enrollment and completion. The long-term impact of these programs is clear - students who receive college access support are more likely to persist, graduate, and contribute meaningfully to their communities.

However, sustainable and equitable funding is crucial for program stability. Without designated funding through HECC, programs like ours may face uncertainty, limiting the opportunities we can provide. HB 2997 ensures that TRIO and other access programs continue to offer high-quality, research-based support to students who need it most.

I urge you to support HB 2997 to secure the future of these essential programs and the students they serve. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Amy Magnussen  
Pre-College TRIO Director  
Clatsop Community College  
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