

Submitter: Kimberly DeSimone
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5006

I was a first generation student (neither parent went to college, both were entrepreneurs). I was the first person in my family to go to college and to graduate school, and now I serve the first gen/low income students at Southern Oregon University as the Director of TRIO Student Support Services. I have worked in TRIO for over 13 years and have seen the foundational impact this program has had on our students. We change lives and the trajectory of those living in poverty. Higher education provides a path to people to help them get the jobs that they love and earn a living wage. Unfortunately, the process of applying to college, funding it, persisting and graduating can be overwhelming and confusing. That is where TRIO professionals help these first gen/low income student navigate their path in the most effective and efficient way.

The Oregon TRIO Association has been an integral part of my success as a TRIO Director. They provide training and support that is crucial to the success of my program and thereby the success of our students. They also help build relationships between all of the Oregon TRIO programs which helps students successfully transfer from institution to another.

I full support any legislation that supports students who come from disadvantaged backgrounds and the programs that support them

Sincerely,
Kimberly DeSimone, MSW