

Submitter: Katie Quick

On Behalf Of: Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5006

Dear Co-Chair Kate Lieber, Co-Chair Tawna Sanchez, and members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means,

My name is Katie Quick, and I am a proud alumna of Portland State University and serve as the volunteer chair of the PSU Advocates. I appreciate the opportunity to testify in strong support of increasing the Public University Support Fund (PUSF) by \$275 million in the 2025-27 biennium for a total of \$1.275 billion.

Oregon's public universities play a crucial role in driving economic growth, preparing a skilled workforce, and expanding opportunity for all Oregonians. Yet, persistent underfunding has placed an increasing financial burden on students and families. Compared to our neighboring states, Oregon invests significantly less per student in higher education, forcing universities to rely on tuition increases and cuts to essential services just to maintain operations.

A \$275 million increase to the PUSF is a critical step toward reversing this trend. With these additional resources, Oregon's public universities can:

- Keep tuition affordable and prevent further financial strain on students who are already struggling with rising costs.
- Ensure student success by maintaining and expanding vital support services, such as academic advising, mental health resources, and career development programs.
- Sustain high-quality education by retaining top faculty, modernizing learning spaces, and strengthening programs that align with Oregon's workforce needs.

Investing in public higher education is an investment in Oregon's future. By adequately funding our universities, we not only provide students with the tools they need to succeed but also strengthen the state's economy by cultivating a well-educated workforce ready to meet the demands of key industries.

I urge you to support this essential funding increase to ensure Oregon's students, families, and economy do not fall further behind. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Katie Quick