

Subject: Support for HB 3809-1 – My Experience with the IDA Education Program

Dear Chair Hudson, Vice-Chairs, and Committee Members,

My name is Ali Lami, and I am writing to express my strong support for HB 3809-1. Thanks to Oregon's Individual Development Account (IDA) program offered at IRCO, I was able to pursue my education and remain on the path to creating a better future for myself and my family.

Before joining the IDA program, my family and I struggled to afford tuition and school-related expenses. The program provided financial support and gave me the motivation and resources to stay on track with my education. With the matched savings provided, I was able to maintain focus on my education without being overtly burdened by my financial obligations.

This program is life-changing for many Oregonians like me who want to further their education but face countless financial barriers. However, without stable funding, future students may not have the same opportunities I had. HB 3809-1 will ensure that this crucial program continues to empower individuals and strengthen our communities.

I urge you to support this bill and help more people achieve their educational goals. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Ali Lami  
Participant, IDA Education Program at IRCO - FY 2023 - 2024