



Chair Hudson, Vice-Chairs Fragala and Harbick, and members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 3920 on behalf of Western Oregon University. My name is Evan Sorce, and I serve as the Secretary to the Board of Trustees, Special Assistant to the President, and Acting Executive Director of Government Relations.

At Western Oregon University, we strongly believe in the power of education to help change the lives of our students while empowering them to meaningfully impact our local community and beyond. By raising the age limit from 23 to 31 for children of 100% disabled veterans, HB 3920 honors the service and sacrifices made by Oregon's Veterans and their families and reduces barriers by acknowledging that often, the process for a veteran to get their disability rating is a long one, and empowers the children of Oregon's disabled veterans to access higher education.

By keeping this policy as "last dollar," it gives the university the flexibility to use financial aid first before the tuition waiver, keeping the cost of this policy change low and allowing universities to serve additional students with minimal costs. Lastly, we appreciate the clarification in HB 3920 that these tuition waivers may be used for a master's degree waiver regardless of whether they received the waiver for their bachelor's degree.

Thank you again for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 3920. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Thank you for your time,

Evan Sorce

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