

Submitter: SMSgt Paul Freimark

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee
On Education

Measure, Appointment or
Topic: SB5525

“Please ensure full funding for the Oregon National Guard State Tuition Assistance program that includes tuition, books, and fees and keep your promise to our National Guard service members.” As the previous Base Education and Training Manager of the Portland Air National Guard Base over the past 3 years, I have seen first-hand the need and impact having the State TA program funded for our service members joining that have willingly joined the Oregon Air National Guard. Individuals have joined to be citizen soldiers in support of their country, both on the national defense level and State Emergency level, preparing continuously when called. They joined with the understanding that they would be supported benefits wise as well.

Not funding this program will not only greatly impact the Oregon Air National Guard's ability to recruit to support the state's requirements, but also retain those individuals that previous joined with the commitment of this program.