

Submitter: Trinity Sherwood

On Behalf Of: The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde

Committee: House Committee on Higher Education

Re: Testimony in support of SB 5525

Dear Chair Lively, Vice-Chair Ruiz, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Trinity Sherwood, and I am a proud member of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde and a graduate student at Portland State University. I am writing today in strong support of **SB 5525** and on behalf of my tribe and the many tribal students across Oregon who have been positively impacted by the Oregon Tribal Student Grant.

This grant has been life-changing for me. It provided the financial support necessary for me to return to school and pursue my Master's degree in Social Work—something that would not have been possible without it. The grant not only helps cover the cost of tuition and fees, but also supports essential living expenses, allowing me to focus fully on my education without the constant fear of losing my housing or being unable to afford food.

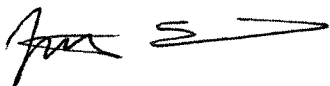
Because of this support, I can now look toward a future filled with opportunity, stability, and purpose. I am working toward a better life for myself, my family, and my community; one that breaks the cycle of poverty and builds a foundation for long-term success.

I am deeply grateful to both the Grand Ronde Tribe and the advocates who have fought to make the Oregon Tribal Student Grant a reality. My hope is that, with your continued support of **SB 5525**, I and many other Native students will be able to access this crucial funding again to complete our degrees and give back to our communities.

Thank you for your time, your consideration, and your commitment to equity in higher education.

Sincerely,

Trinity Sherwood

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Trinity Sherwood', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

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