

To: Oregon State Legislature
Re: Support for Oregon Tribal Student Grant Funding – SB 5525

Dear Honorable Members of the Oregon State Legislature,

My name is Angella Renee Schultz and I am a proud member of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde. I am writing to strongly urge your continued support for the Oregon Tribal Student Grant through House Bill SB 5525.

This grant has changed my life.

At 16 years old, I dropped out of high school so I could work full time and support myself. For many years, it felt like higher education was out of reach. I earned my GED but never felt that my education was supported or valued—until the Oregon Tribal Student Grant gave me a real opportunity.

Because of this grant, I was able to return to school while continuing to work full time. I completed my associate degree and am now a senior at Eastern Oregon University, proudly working toward my bachelor's degree. And I'm not stopping there. With continued support from this program, I plan to attend graduate school to earn my Master's in Social Work, so I can continue serving and uplifting tribal communities.

At 47 years old, I'm showing my children, my community, and especially my two-year-old granddaughter Rosalia Annabelle, that it's never too late to follow your dreams. I'm proving that our stories don't have to end with struggle, they can lead to purpose, education, and change.

The Oregon Tribal Student Grant has not only supported me financially, it has helped restore my sense of worth, belonging, and determination. It is a vital investment in Indigenous futures, in family healing, and in community leadership. Without it, students like me—those who've walked a hard road—might never get the chance to return to school, let alone thrive in it.

Please continue to fund SB 5525 and stand with Indigenous students who are working hard to better themselves and their communities. Your support matters, and it makes a real, lasting difference.

With deep gratitude,

Angella Schultz

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