



Wajdi Said
President and Co-Founder
Tigard, Oregon
April 15th, 2025

Co-Chairs Sollman and Ruiz and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of bold and sustained investment in Oregon's public higher education system.

My name is Wajdi Said, and I serve as the President and Co-Founder of the Muslim Educational Trust in Tigard. Our institution provides a PreK–12 educational program rooted in academic excellence, moral integrity, and community empowerment. Over the past three decades, we have witnessed firsthand how education transforms individual lives and entire families, creating generational stability, building economic resilience, and cultivating civic responsibility.

That transformation must not stop at high school graduation.

Oregon's public colleges and universities are critical bridges to a more just and prosperous future. They empower first-generation college students, open doors for historically underrepresented communities, and fuel the kind of innovation and leadership our state desperately needs. But these institutions cannot fulfill their promise without adequate and equitable funding.

I respectfully urge you to:

- **Invest \$450 million in the Oregon Opportunity Grant** to expand access to higher education for low- and moderate-income students,
- **Invest \$1.275 billion in the Public University Support Fund** to keep tuition affordable and preserve the quality of academic programs,
- **Allocate \$22 million for the Basic Needs Package (HB 3182 and 3183)** to ensure students are not forced to choose between housing, food, and their education.

These investments are not just numbers in a budget—they are declarations of our shared values. They represent our commitment to fairness, opportunity, and the belief that every Oregonian deserves a chance to thrive.

At the Muslim Educational Trust, we often remind our students and families that knowledge is both a sacred trust and a powerful tool for societal uplift. Let us, as a state, honor that truth by making higher education accessible and sustainable for all.

Thank you for your leadership and for your commitment to Oregon's students, families, and future.

Sincerely,

Wajdi Said

President and Co-Founder
Muslim Educational Trust