

Submitter: DeAnne Varitek  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5006

Dear Leaders,

I am writing to express my strong support for HB 2997 and the continued state funding of the Oregon TRIO Association (OTA).

As a new TRIO Director last year, I found OTA to be an invaluable source of professional development, guidance, and community. In my role as Director of PreCollege TRIO at Southwestern Oregon Community College, I rely on OTA's support to effectively lead programs that serve over 1,100 low-income and first-generation students.

The services OTA provides to TRIO programs, staff, and students are extensive and deeply impactful. They have assisted us in securing vital grant funding, allowing our students access to resources they would not otherwise have. OTA also hosts a statewide TRIO conference, offering essential opportunities for professional learning, collaboration, and the exchange of best practices—critical for my team of full-time advisors who support students across 11 high schools and 7 middle schools.

Many of the schools we serve are located in remote, rural areas where access to resources is often limited. In these communities, TRIO is a lifeline, and OTA plays a central role in ensuring we can continue delivering high-quality, college and career readiness experiences.

Without the Oregon TRIO Association, the ability of our staff to serve students in Southwestern Oregon would be significantly diminished. OTA helps us bridge gaps and expand opportunity for those who need it most.

I respectfully urge you to continue funding this vital organization through HB 2997.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Warmly,  
DeAnne Varitek  
Director of PreCollege TRIO, Educational Talent Search & Upward Bound  
Southwestern Oregon Community College