

Submitter: Roshelle Hall

On Behalf Of: Portland State University

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB 5006

Dear Co-Chair Kate Lieber, Co-Chair Tawna Sanchez, and members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means,

As a proud graduate of Portland State University and someone who grew up in a low-income family, I'm writing to urge your strong support for two critical investments that will help ensure students like me continue to have a pathway to success through higher education.

Invest in the Public University Support Fund

I know firsthand how life-changing access to an affordable college education can be. Oregon's public universities are asking for a \$275 million increase to the Public University Support Fund (PUSF) for the 2025–27 biennium, bringing the total to \$1.275 billion. This investment will allow our universities to keep tuition affordable, improve student support services, and strengthen workforce connections—critical tools that help students succeed in school and beyond.

Preserve Access to the Oregon Opportunity Grant

I was fortunate to receive financial aid during my time in college, including support from the Oregon Opportunity Grant (OOG). For many students from low-income backgrounds, this funding makes the difference between attending college or not. An additional \$150 million investment in the OOG—bringing the total to \$450 million—will not only preserve this vital support for low-income students but also expand access to middle-income families who are increasingly squeezed by rising costs.

Support Capital Investment in PSU's Performing Arts Center

Additionally, I urge you to support Portland State University's Capital Construction Article-G Bond request of \$85 million to build a new Performing Arts Center. This project would not only enrich the educational experience for PSU students across multiple disciplines—it would also serve as a vibrant cultural and economic asset for the City of Portland and our entire state. A Broadway-capable performing arts facility would attract new audiences, create jobs, and expand access to arts and culture for the whole community.

These investments are more than numbers in a budget—they are investments in people and in Oregon's future. They open doors for students from every background to pursue their potential, build meaningful careers, and give back to our communities.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to higher education. I respectfully urge you to fully fund these essential programs and projects.

Sincerely,

Roshelle Hall