

## **CCSF Testimony**

Submitter: Laura Lundborg

Committee: Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education

Re: Senate Bill 5525

Dear Co-Chair Sollman, Co-Chair Ruiz, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Laura Lundborg, and I am an adult child of Clackamas Community College (CCC) alumni, a CCC alum, and a parent of a CCC alum. I am also a CCC employee, working daily to support innovative education and student success. I am writing today to voice my strong support for Oregon's community colleges and to urge you to fully fund the Community College Support Fund at \$920 million in Senate Bill 5525.

Community colleges are transformative, changing lives, generation after generation. Growing up, I saw firsthand how CCC opened doors for my family. My father worked full-time while attending evening and weekend classes to learn welding and earn a millwright certification. This marked the beginning of our family's path to economic mobility. It taught me the importance of college, and CCC became the beginning of my career pathway in higher education; I am now supporting a community college through my career at CCC. My father went on to lead a successful industrial maintenance career in Clackamas County, and after retiring, returned to CCC to help maintain and repair instructional machinery, giving back to the college that had shaped his career. My mother, who had always dreamed of becoming a nurse, pursued that dream at CCC after raising children. She went on to serve our community as a registered nurse for many years. Her most significant achievement was saving a family member's life in a terrifying accident, performing CPR and guiding the family to prepare for emergency responders. This one act alone highlights the profound, life-changing impact that CCC had on our family. Recently, that family member my mother saved, started a career pathway at CCC that led to graduating summa cum laude at a state university, and is now contributing to Oregon's economy. This is not just our success story; it is a testament to the power of community colleges in shaping Oregon's future.

Community colleges like CCC are the heart of our communities, cultivating lives in the same way they did with my family. As someone who has witnessed the impact of Oregon's community colleges across generations, I can attest they are vital to shaping our futures, strengthening our economy, and ensuring the well-being of our communities.

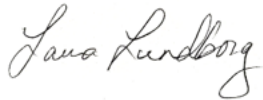
However, without adequate state support, community colleges face tough choices—raising tuition, cutting programs, or reducing student services. That would not only make it harder for

students to access the education they need, but it would also weaken the workforce pipeline that supports our economy and compromise the strength of our communities.

Along with many other Oregonians, I urge you to prioritize an investment that touches every corner of our state. Fully funding community colleges at \$920 million means preserving access to education and opportunities that lead to economic prosperity for Oregonians today, just as you have ensured for the generations before.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laura Lundborg". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid, with a large loop on the "L" and a long, sweeping tail on the "g".

Laura Lundborg  
Community Member