



April 30, 2025

Chair Janeen Sollman

Chair Ricki Ruiz

Members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education

RE: Support for SB 5525 – Public Universities

Dear Chair Sollman, Chair Ruiz, and Members of the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education,

On behalf of the Oregon Business Council (OBC), I am writing to express strong support for SB 5525 and the investments it proposes in Oregon's public universities. As a statewide business leadership organization committed to a thriving, inclusive economy, OBC believes that robust investment in postsecondary education transforms the lives of Oregonians and strengthens the long-term prosperity of our state.

Oregon's economic strength relies on a talented, diverse workforce. To ensure that all Oregonians have the opportunity to succeed and contribute to Oregon's dynamic and evolving economy, the Legislature must make bold investments in our colleges and universities.

In particular, we urge your support for:

- \$1.275 billion in the Public University Support Fund to keep tuition affordable and maintain academic quality
- \$450 million in the Oregon Opportunity Grant, which will expand financial aid for low-and moderate-income students
- \$22 million for the Basic Needs Package, which will provide essential support like housing and food assistance to help students stay enrolled and complete their degrees

Thank you for your leadership and support. We urge your sustained commitment to prioritizing affordable, accessible, high-quality postsecondary education.

Sincerely,

Kyle Ritchey-Noll

Education & Workforce Policy Director

Oregon Business Council