

Submitter: Mari Sakiyama

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee  
On Education

Measure, Appointment or  
Topic: SB5525

Co-Chairs Ruiz and Sollman, and members of the Ways & Means Subcommittee on Education,

My name is Mari Sakiyama, I am a faculty member at Western Oregon University, and I am here today to speak in support of SB 5525.

As someone who cares deeply about the future of Oregon, I believe our public universities deserve stronger support. These institutions do more than educate—they shape lives, open doors, and fuel the workforce our communities rely on. I've seen how hard students work to build a better future for themselves and their families, but too many are being held back by rising tuition and a lack of support. Oregon invests less per student than any of our neighboring states, and it shows. Our universities are stretched thin, trying to do more with less, while students struggle with debt and fewer resources. That's why I support a \$1.275 billion investment in the Public University Support Fund (PUSF). It's a smart, compassionate step that would keep college affordable, protect jobs, and ensure every student—no matter their background—has a real chance to succeed. This is about more than numbers; it's about investing in people, in opportunity, and in Oregon's future.

Thank you for your time, and I hope I can count on your support of SB 5525.