

THE OREGON IDEA

SUPPORTING STUDENTS, COMMUNITY COLLEGES, AND UNIVERSITIES TO BUILD A BETTER OREGON

Senator Mark Hass, Chair
Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education
900 Court Street
Salem, OR 97301

RE: House Bill 2787 (Tuition Equity) - Support

Chair Hass and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of The Oregon Idea, we are pleased to support House Bill 2787 as a means to facilitate the full and equal participation of Oregon's high school graduates in our institutions of higher education.

The Oregon Idea is a coalition of business and community leaders, students, and alumni of Oregon's community colleges and public universities who are committed to ensuring that our post-secondary institutions have the resources needed to serve all Oregonians – from all backgrounds and all corners of the state – to meet the challenges and fulfill the potential of a dynamic economy.

HB 2787 is long overdue, given the increasing numbers of immigrant children who are graduating from our high schools and are motivated to continue their educations and contribute to our economy. For too long, these students have been treated as outsiders and face unaffordable tuition barriers in the Oregon University System. But, now that President Obama has opened a pathway to legal residence and work for these students, there is no reason of equity or economy to deny equal access for these students to our universities and to deprive our state of their skills and ambitions.

Now is Oregon's chance to join the ten other states that have passed similar legislation to ensure that their original investment in all students will yield greater returns in the future.

The Oregon Idea strongly encourages your support for this legislation.

Sincerely,



Ryan M. Robinson
Executive Director, The Oregon Idea