



OREGON DREAMACTIVIST



To: Senate Education Committee
From: Alison Strom, Roosevelt High School teacher
Date: March 19th, 2013
Re: Testimony in Support of Tuition Equity

Chair Hass and Members of the Committee:

My name is Alison Strom, and I am asking for you to vote yes on Tuition Equity legislation. Thank you very much for allowing me to submit this testimony for the record.

I teach some of the most amazing people I have ever met. They are hard workers, responsible, and brilliant. However, some of these students have dismal opportunities after high school graduation. Their families cannot pay out-of-state tuition for college. These students have been in America nearly their entire lives, these students want to make this country even greater. They face a tragic future after they receive their high school diploma.

I will never forget one of my first years teaching when Rocio, one of my highest achieving students, confided in me that she was undocumented. During high school, she took advantage of every academic opportunity; she even took two years of mathematics her sophomore year, so she would be ready for Calculus in 12th grade. Unfortunately, there was no way her parents could pay for her college education. She said, "My parents say they will just send me back to Mexico for college. But Ms. Strom, I can't read or write Spanish better than a third grader! I don't know what to do." Rocio was the first student who made me wake up to the disappointing and unfair policies of this country.

Tuition equity is good for everyone. With tuition equity, a student like Rocio would go on to live out her dreams, dreams that would make this world a better place. The "American Dream," whatever that means to you, should be available to Rocio because Rocio only knows a life in America. This is where she does her dreaming, please make it the place where she also is allowed to live her dream.

1631 NE Broadway, #453 | Portland, OR 97232 | 971-244-4954 (ph) | 503-284-0542 (fax)

info@momentumalliance.org | www.studentallianceproject.org

oregondreamactivist@gmail.com | www.ordreamactivist.org