Stand for Children
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Portland, OR 97209

Oregon State Senate
Senate Education and Workforce Development Committee
Senator Mark Hass (Beaverton), Chair
900 Court Street, NE
Salem, OR 97301

March 19, 2013

Dear Senator/Chair Hass:

On behalf of Stand for Children members through the state, I write in support of House Bill (HB) 2787 – the Tuition Equity bill. We believe this legislation will provide an opportunity for talented long-time Oregon students who have graduated from an Oregon high school and been accepted to an Oregon college to attend college at in-state tuition rates.

Tuition Equity is a no-cost investment in education. This legislation capitalizes on our K-12 investment. Further, the Oregon University System recently found that similar legislation would be revenue positive for Oregon's universities. This legislation also encourages citizenship. Because the legislation requires long-time Oregon students to sign an affidavit of intent to pursue legal status, it moves these students toward citizenship and helps them build productive futures in Oregon.

We truly believe that passing this legislation is an issue of basic fairness. The students most directly helped by the bill have been caught between a rock and a hard place – they had no control over how they got here, but Oregon is their home and they want to build their lives here. HB 2787 helps them achieve this dream.

Further, HB 2787 will make Oregon a more competitive place to live. By providing more students the opportunity to attend college in our state, this bill helps achieve the educated workforce we need to attract new businesses to our state and compete in the global economy. That is why this bill has strong support the leaders and innovators that will drive great Oregon-grown industry for a new generation.

Tuition Equity is a smart, no-cost investment in Oregon's 21st Century economy and is the right thing to do. We fully support HB 2787.

Sincerely,

Toya Fick
Government Affairs Director, Stand for Children