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Dear Chair Hass & members of the committee,

The Center for Intercultural Organizing (CIO) urges your support for House Bill 2787, Oregon's proposed tuition equity law.

CIO is a statewide organization working to build a multiracial, multiethnic movement for immigrant & refugee rights. Through our work over the past 10 years, we've seen that higher education provides enormous benefits for immigrant & refugee youths. Unfortunately, some highly-qualified and highly-motivated students are effectively priced out of a higher education, hitting a wall as they graduate from high school.

HB 2787 would change that by simply giving students who have graduated from an Oregon high school (after spending at least 3 years enrolled in secondary education in our state, and residing in the US for five years) access to in-state tuition at public universities. A student seeking to qualify for tuition equity would have to work hard to earn his or her high school diploma and earn admission to a public university. Students who qualify will receive no special treatment, nor will they receive financial aid; tuition equity does no more than give them a path to a higher education.

Ultimately, all Oregonians benefit when our communities have access to education. We therefore urge your support of HB 2787.

Respectfully,

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