



Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon

March 18th, 2013

Senator Hass, Chair  
Senator Knopp, Vice Chair  
Senate Education and Workforce Development  
Oregon Legislative Assembly

Re: HB 2787

Dear Chair Hass, Vice-Chair Knopp, and Members of the Committee:

The Asian and Pacific American Network of Oregon (APANO) is a statewide, grassroots organization, uniting Asians and Pacific Islanders to achieve social justice. We envision an equitable world where Asians and Pacific Islanders are fully engaged in the social, economic and political issues that affect us.

APANO values good, fair and accessible education for all children. Asian and Pacific Islander community leaders have been working for years with local schools and community organizations to embolden conversations around improving access to quality education for our children.

Asians and Pacific Islanders, particularly our immigrants and refugees families, continue to face serious barriers to academic success in Oregon's schools. Many families are caught in the naturalization process, and some remain there due to language, cultural and economic barriers. Many Asian and Pacific Islander youth face being undocumented in Oregon. We know that our families, and our communities are better off when children have equal opportunity to go to college. Higher education should be affordable and accessible as possible for our new Americans.

We do not want to punish students who have grown up in Oregon with expensive tuition that deny them a chance at a college education. A college education leads to greater earnings, which lead to greater participation in our economy. An individual with a bachelor's degree earns \$750,000 or more over their lifetime compared to an individual with only a high school degree, giving back to Oregon's economy.

Tuition Equity strengthens our families, our communities and all Oregonians by lifting all boats.

Please vote YES on HB 2787.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sokho Eath

Economic Justice Associate  
The Asian and Pacific American Network of Oregon

(971) 340-4861  
info@apano.org  
www.apano.org

  @apanonews