

United States Student Association (USSA) 2012-2013 Board of Directors Resolution

The United States Student Association, the country's oldest, largest, and most inclusive national student-led organization, develops current and future leaders and amplifies the student voice at the local, state, and national levels by mobilizing grassroots power to win concrete victories on student issues.

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SUMMARY

This resolution declares USSA support for legislation pending before the Oregon Legislature to approve the policy commonly known as "Tuition Equity," which is an Oregon Legislative Bill that would grant any student who was raised in Oregon and graduated from an Oregon High School in-state tuition to any Oregon Public University regardless of documentation status.

A BILL FOR RESOLUTION

Section I.

- 1.1 Whereas, the United States Student Association is a national student-led organization that advocates for students on issues concerning higher education affordability and accessibility; and
- 1.2 Whereas, Tuition Equity legislation is pending before the Oregon Legislature, and will be voted on during the 2013 regular session; and
- 1.3 Whereas, Tuition Equity legislation has been introduced before the Oregon Legislature on several occasions, but has failed to pass despite statewide support from higher education institutions, student organizations and associated student governments, business leaders, and social justice, faith based, and community based advocacy organizations; and
- 1.4 Whereas, Tuition Equity legislation would direct OUS to exempt undocumented students from prohibitive nonresident tuition prices, if that student has been attending education in the United States for at least 5 years, graduated from a Oregon high school, and is seeking a path to citizenship; and
- 1.5 Whereas, Tuition Equity is an issue of equitable access to education for all Oregonians; and
- 1.6 Whereas, Oregon is required by law to provide a K-12 education to everyone, regardless of documentation status; and
- 1.7 Whereas, it is a federal law to provide K-12 education to all young people regardless of documentation status and prohibitive tuition prices keep qualified students from going to college while we have already invested in their K-12 education; and

1.8 Whereas, Tuition Equity would ensure the investment made in students during K-12 would not be wasted, by securing all Oregon high school graduates have the opportunity to attend Oregon universities at the same rate; and

- 1.9 Whereas, out-of-state tuition at OUS institutions is as much as three times the cost of in-state tuition; and

- 1.10 Whereas, The cost of out-of-state tuition presents a significant financial barrier to many Oregonians being able to attend college; and

- 1.11 Whereas, The United States Student Association must always stand against institutional inequality and barriers at all levels of education for every student and every human being.

Section II.

- 2.1 Be it resolved, that the United States Student Association officially supports passage of Tuition Equity legislation in the state of Oregon, which would give qualified undocumented Oregonians in-state tuition rate eligibility at OUS institutions.