



**Oregon
University
System**

Office of the Chancellor

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RE: Tuition Equity Legislation

The Honorable Mark Hass
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Hass and Members of the Senate Education Committee,

As the presidents of Oregon's public universities, we write in support of Tuition Equity legislation that would consider undocumented students to be Oregon residents for the purpose of determining tuition and fees at Oregon University System campuses. Many of these students have attended some or all of their K-12 education in the U.S., but due to the status of their parents, must pay out-of-state tuition at Oregon University System campuses.

Tuition Equity would grant in-state tuition to students who have lived in Oregon, attended Oregon schools, graduated from an Oregon high school, and been accepted to an Oregon University System institution, regardless of documentation status. This bill is an opportunity to reap the benefits of investments Oregon has already made in students throughout their K-12 education and move them along the educational continuum to help meet Oregon's 40-40-20 goals.

As we move out of the worst fiscal crisis in recent memory, the state cannot afford to leave Oregon students behind without the educational opportunities that will enable them to fully contribute to our state. Higher education is an investment in the civic, social, and economic health of Oregon and our institutions play a vital role in Oregon's economic development and social progress. Tuition Equity will enable us to provide access to an affordable, quality higher education to *all* qualified Oregon high school graduates.

Many students committed to education and who have excelled in their K-12 education through their own determination and focus, are also ready to succeed in postsecondary education. With postsecondary skills and training and a degree, these students can meet Oregon's workforce needs and contribute in positive and unique ways to our communities and our economy. If their only option is to pay nonresident tuition, which averages \$22,000 a year at OUS campuses, most if not all of these students will lack the resources to earn a college degree. The primary issue in determining student residency is one's intent to be permanently domiciled in Oregon. Students who will be affected by Tuition Equity fit this criterion, and are fully worthy of in-state tuition rates to Oregon University System schools.

Please support Tuition Equity legislation. All of us will reap the benefits of this investment in students who are Oregonians in every way except for society's label of them.

Sincerely,

President Bob Davies, Eastern Oregon University



President Chris Maples, Oregon Institute of Technology



President Ed Ray, Oregon State University



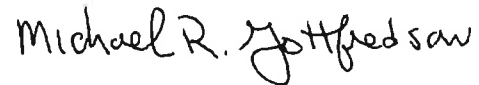
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