

Co-chair Komp, Co-chair Monroe, and Committee Members:

I am Scott Reames; a member of the University of Oregon Alumni Association and the father of two high school students, one of whom will be attending the University of Oregon this fall and the other who has his sights set on Oregon State University in 2016. In other words, I'm quite literally invested in the future of Oregon's higher education.

In the wake of rising tuition costs and diminishing financial aid programs, my wife and I are facing the possibility of coming up with almost a *quarter of a million dollars* over the next seven years and/or saddling our children with overwhelming debt. Neither option is particularly appealing...it's like having a financial Sword of Damocles looming over our heads.

You have a chance to help remove that looming sword. OUS estimates tuition increases of six percent a year over at the funding levels proposed in the governor's recommended budget. An additional \$47 million for OUS will keep funding at current services levels and help to prevent further tuition increases.

Just as I am investing in my children's future, it's imperative that our state legislature invests in our education system to benefit ALL our children. I urge you to begin Oregon's reinvestment in higher education during this budget cycle.

Thank you,

Scott

P.S. I'm copying Sen. Mark Hass and Rep. Tobias Read, in whose district we live.