



Joint Ways and Means Education Subcommittee

Paul Zito, Associated Students of Lane Community College

Re: CCWD Budget

Hello Chair Komp and Monroe and members of the committee. My name is Paul Zito, and I'm a 2nd year student at Lane Community College, I'm also the Campaign Director of the student government at LCC and Oregon Community College Student Association Vice Chair. The extracurricular activities that I involve myself in have greatly strengthened me as a person, my resume, and my job prospects after school. Unfortunately, with the increases in tuition these activities become only available to students with larger sums of money who can afford not to work full time. The time that it takes to do my job as a student representative and perform my duties as a student does not leave room for a second job. Since I started school at Lane Community College I have only been able to afford 4 books out of 40 that I was required to buy for my courses. I have made up for this lack of material through the internet and college services but this has left me pouring over material for my courses for at least an extra 3 hours per class hour not including any homework I may have gotten.

Now with the budget cuts to our schools' programs the extra services that provide alternate routes from internet research are rapidly disappearing. I can barely afford school, and that is the only barrier between me and a successful education, which of course is the barrier between me and gainful employment, my successful participation in society, and personal wellbeing. The projections for LCC say that in order to make up the difference from the lack of funding to the CCWD proposal the minimum ask would be a \$15 increase per credit hour in tuition. That's \$540 more per year for a full time student. That doesn't seem like that big of a number, but when you take into account that my budget per month after bills not including food or gas is less than \$150 a month it becomes a rather large concern. And even if the tuition prices don't go up that high I am being told the quality of my education with decrease.

Students have accepted the cost of their education and continued on in the past. Now you can see by our strong involvement in voter registration and opportunities come to the capitol and participate in the legislative process this year that students are concerned about their education and whether or not they can continue. We have reached our capacity to shoulder the burden. We have been forced to mobilize ourselves in a way not seen in years in order to display our inability to pay for more of the operational cost of the colleges we attend. I come before you as struggling student to let you know we work hard for the credentials we are working towards and we need you to protect the education of the people of Oregon. It is your job to continue to help us find avenues for success through funding and we are asking for a vote to increase the CCWD budget higher than the co-chairs budget. Specifically, students are asking for \$510 million which would help to stabilize tuition and start the path to getting to 40-40-20.

Thank you and I would be happy to take any questions.