



House Committee on Rules

Tiffany Dollar, Associated Students of Portland State University President

Re: Support for HB 3405, Racial and Ethnic Impact Statement

Good afternoon Chair Garrett and members of the Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today. For the record, my name is Tiffany Dollar I serve as the Student Body President at Portland State, Oregon's largest university, and I am speaking on behalf of the Oregon Student Association. OSA represents over 100,000 students in post-secondary education from across Oregon. We are led by all our Student Body Presidents and representatives from across each campus working to represent the needs of all students with an additional eye to the needs of LGBT students and students of color. It is our mission is to increase affordability and access to public post-secondary education for all Oregonians. I am here in support of House Bill 3405.

OSA supports HB 3405 because if we hope to reach 40-40-20 we need to do more to engage students from underrepresented communities—including communities of color. Oregon's demographics are changing. In order to keep this testimony brief I'll make some apples to apples comparisons to illustrate this. According to the 2000 Census, more than 275,000 (or 8 percent of the population) Oregonians identified as Latinos.¹ In 2010 this number grew to more than 450,000 (or 11.7 percent of the population).²

Unfortunately, this kind of growth is not reflected at the university level. In the fall class of 2000 of the more than 69,000 students enrolled in the Oregon University System, only 2,259 (or 3.2 percent) identified as Latinos.³ As of 2012 over 100,000 students are enrolled in OUS and 7,148 (or about 7 percent) identified as Latinos.⁴ Yes, this is growth, but it still shows that certain Oregonians are being left behind.

¹ http://factfinder2.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/DEC/00_SF1/DP1/0400000US41

² http://factfinder2.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/DEC/10_DP/DPDP1/0400000US41

³ http://ous.edu/sites/default/files/dept/ir/reports/fact_book_2000/enrlevel.htm,
http://ous.edu/sites/default/files/dept/ir/reports/fact_book_2000/hcethnic.htm

⁴ Oregon University System Factbook 2012, page 26,
http://www.ous.edu/sites/default/files/dept/ir/reports/fb2010/2012_Fact_Book.pdf.

This statistics illustrate that post-secondary education policy has not been keeping up with the change in Oregon's demographics. This is true statewide and especially true within post-secondary education. If we were to have racial and ethnic impact statements related to education policy we might make different decisions. This bill isn't going to change our policies, but it will allow leaders like you to make educated choices. We can't afford to make uneducated decisions anymore. Oregon is changing and we need the relevant facts to make sure that all Oregonians can be a part of 40-40-20.

Thank you.