

THE OREGON IDEA

SUPPORTING STUDENTS, COMMUNITY COLLEGES, AND UNIVERSITIES TO BUILD A BETTER OREGON

Testimony of Chere Pereira

In support of The Oregon Idea's Request for OHSU Education Funding

Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education

April 10, 2013

Co-Chairs Komp and Monroe and Committee members, my name is Chere Pereira, and I am the Chief Premedical and Pre-dental Advisor at Oregon State University. I am here today to join with The Oregon Idea in support of an appropriation of \$67 million for the educational programs at Oregon Health & Science University.

I am quite familiar with the programs at OHSU, and I have had extensive collaborations with the professional schools as well as the diversity office over my 26 years in this position. I am also on the board of AHEC, their statewide community-based outreach program which helps keep young people from rural areas in the pipeline for health careers. Our OSU pre-professional students are passionate about helping people and really want to attend OHSU and practice in Oregon. OHSU receives less state funding than most of the other academic health sciences centers in the country, and is one of the most expensive to attend. This creates a barrier to Oregon students because the tuition, and ultimately debt, is very high. At times the balance of in-state and out-of-state students is affected, and the OHSU programs must resort to admitting those who bring in more tuition dollars.

The advisors in the state work closely with the OHSU admissions officers to help prepare our students for entrance to their professional schools. OHSU has a very good national reputation and my students are happy about their training there. Our hope is that many of them will stay in the state to serve the health care needs of urban and rural Oregon. Funding OHSU at \$67 million is truly a good investment.

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