

Feb 13, 2013

My name is Don Nash. I reside in Lake Oswego, Oregon.

I feel that HB 2787 should be defeated. The bill would allow students who are not citizens of Oregon, or even lawful residents of the United States, to pay in-state tuition to attend an Oregon college. Why would we do this? Some would say we are doing it to be politically correct. But sometimes being politically correct is morally wrong. This is one of those times. In this case, this bill is contrary to what our country stands for. This country is based on laws passed for the common good, and the obeying of those laws.

We hear that these students will not be able to attend college at Oregon State or the University of Oregon if in-state tuition is not granted. That is not true. There are numerous financial packages that are available. There are also less-costly colleges that are available. Remember that paying for college is a problem for all college students.

We hear that we should not penalize these students for the mistakes of their parents. There are a lot of young people in today's world that have survived "the mistakes of their parents", and have become good citizens of our country. They are learning the value of what it means to be a citizen of the United States. Becoming a citizen is probably why the parents of the illegals came of the US in the first place. Yes, it was a chance of a better paying job, but it was also the opportunity to enjoy the fruits of being in the US, to become citizens, and to live under the rule of law that exists in our country. So, we are not penalizing the students for the mistakes of their parents. Rather, we are supporting the struggles that their parents made in coming to the US.

Colleges are suffering economically, as are many segments of our economy. College admissions officials probably have a formula that tells them how many out-of-state students, that pay higher tuition, have to be accepted, in order to generate the tuition dollars that the college needs to operate. As a result, we have seen colleges increase the number of out-of-state slots at the expense of openings for in-state students. The result is that high school students with perfect or near perfect scholastic records are refused admittance to the in-state college of their choice. If passed, this bill would make this situation worse by granting illegal's some of the in-state slots, thus reducing the number of slots available to resident students.

So what are we accomplishing? In my opinion, nothing. We will be reducing the number of slots available to resident students. We are depriving colleges of some much needed revenue. In total, we are cheapening the value of being a citizen of the US.

The reasons for 2787 are flawed, and without merit. It is a bad idea.

Thank you for your time.