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Hello Chair Hass and Members of the Committee,

My name is Carly Beckman and I am a student from Portland State University and a member of the Oregon Student Association.

Students have grave concerns about SB 270. The governing boards are too expensive and lack adequate student, staff and faculty representation. They are also entirely unnecessary, especially when the costs to implement them are being placed on the backs of students and Oregon taxpayers. Tuition is already too high, why place another financial burden on students?

The fiscal impact statement attached to SB 270 has estimated that the cost of running institutional governing boards could be \$1 million to \$5 million dollars. This is too much to spend to create boards that will do nothing to increase the educational attainment of Oregonians. Students are footing the bill on a project driven by special interests and a donor's desire for campus independence with no proof or commitment that this will increase access, decrease costs, or bring in additional money.

Students see no benefit to local boards. We have been told that governing boards will guarantee an increase in philanthropy, however a nationwide review by the Oregon University System found that there is no correlational between institutional boards and increased philanthropy. The review did however find that local boards are associated with higher rates of growth in resident tuition compared to schools with system wide boards.

Students like me are at the end of our rope when it comes to tuition increases. I am finishing my freshman year at PSU and I am afraid that if I have to pay even more of the operating costs of my university then I will have to begin prioritizing which textbooks I can afford. I may even have to consider moving out of my campus dorm, losing a part of my connection to my campus.

Local boards, which students will bear the brunt of paying for, will do nothing beneficial for us, our faculty, our staff, or our universities as a whole. They may even harm our community colleges and regional universities by creating a more competitive environment in lobbying for state funding. Please oppose Senate Bill 270.

Thank you for your time and for the opportunity to speak here today.