



635 NE Dekum St, Portland, OR, 97211 | (503) 286-0477 | [www.orstudents.org](http://www.orstudents.org) | @OregonStudents

Chair Komp and Chair Monroe and Members of the Committee, thank you for hearing me today.

For the record, my name is Tessara Dudley. I am a student at Portland State University, and a member of the Oregon Student Association.

I am here before you because students across Oregon are concerned about Senate Bill 270. We recognise that governance is a very important issue, but we are urging you to oppose this bill.

At PSU, we have seen the preparation for institutional boards lead to increases in administrative costs that are being passed on to students at rates we cannot afford. My partner recently left work to return to school, and that means money is tight in our household. We are both taking on debt to complete our education, but when that degree comes with \$32,000 in debt I begin to wonder if the promise of a better future is worth it. If we wish to reach the state-wide goal of 40-40-20, we can't price students out of an education.

Another concern that students have is board makeup. We have also been told that local boards would allow board members to give direct advice to our university presidents, but how can the board give good or effective advice when the key stakeholders at our universities: students, faculty, and staff are inadequately represented or excluded from local boards?

Moreover, those boards will be responsible for setting the budgets and expenditures as well as the income that supports their budgets. Where will that money come from? Our tuition. We don't believe the same board should be setting the income and expenses because they won't have our interests and the interests of Oregonians as their focus.

Without a state-wide board, regional schools and community colleges are likely to suffer. We shouldn't gamble the future of our higher education system on the tenuous possibility of increased philanthropy; if we are to achieve 40-40-20, we must ensure that the system is equitable, rather than leaving our regional schools and community colleges by the wayside.

Oregon students want a streamlined and efficient higher education system that makes sure that a college education is affordable and accessible to all Oregonians, and that makes the most of state funds. We are asking you to keep our needs in mind and oppose SB 270.

Thank you for your time.