

Good morning Chair Monroe, Chair Komp, members of the committee. My name is Jessica Hand and I am currently a second year student at Western Oregon University and sit as a member on the Board of Directors for the Oregon Student Association.

Institutional Boards, these two words send shivers down my back when I think of the negative impact that they would have on our Oregon Higher Education System. I am one of the many students across the state of Oregon that is gravely concerned with the boards for a number of reasons; the two most prominent are cost and student, faculty and staff representation. These boards are unnecessary and place additional costs on the backs of students and tax payers that you all represent.

I am overwhelmingly excited when I think of the strides that we have taken this year in terms of funding for higher education, but all of the work we have done feels suddenly worthless when I think of these boards passing. At almost \$5 million per board per year (according to the fiscal impact statement attached to SB270), these boards are simply too expensive. \$5 million of extra costs at Western is just under \$1,000 more per student, students who are already an average of \$25,000 in debt. I personally already am struggling financially. Adding \$1,000 to my bill would mean I would have to give up groceries, text books, or even a roof over my head, and for what gain? None.

The next fear that I have of institutional board is the lack of student, faculty, and staff representation. As some of the key stakeholders of the University, it makes sense that we would be represented on such a powerful board, but we wouldn't be. Student and Staff representation, if any, simply doesn't work, especially when the big decisions that would be impacting student greatly are being made.

Therefore, I urge you to oppose SB270, a bill that causes another layer of bureaucracy to our higher education system and rather than increasing affordability and accessibility in Oregon, points us in the opposite direction of 40-40-20, and opposite of where we need to be.

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