



Chair Dembrow and committee members for Higher Education. For the record, my name is Betty Komp and I serve House District 22, Woodburn, Gervais, Brooks, and North Salem.

Having been a teacher and school principal in one of the highest poverty school districts in the state of Oregon, the issue of tuition equity directly affects students and families in my hometown. I have always believed that every child deserves an education that will help them live to their full potential.

Ever since my time as a teacher in the Woodburn school district, I have been asking students from around the state if they would like to go to college. The overwhelming answer, no matter the child's race, age or reading level - is yes. They want to go to college because they want to have a great job, they want to make their parents proud and they want to prove that they are worth something. The way we are treating a large swath of our college-aged students does more than create barriers to success, it destroys dreams.

Since 1990, with strong leadership, Oregon has changed the agenda on education and created opportunities for students to excel in a global economy. Allowing innovative young people who already made it up through our K-12 system to have equal opportunities, this is the most important thing we should do as legislators.

These children have the potential to create the economic success in business, science and engineering in the state of Oregon. Instead of nurturing and building upon their abilities, we are setting up roadblocks to their success. We are diminishing the chances of improving Oregon's workforce from within.

I refuse to stand by and let our students by asking them to pay out of state tuition at our universities when they have lived here their whole lives. Yes, some do not have legal residence in our Nation. But literally ruining the lives of students who have called America home their entire life couldn't be more un-patriotic.

My role as a mother, teacher, and legislator has always been to ensure the success of those around me. House Bill 2787 will be the final step to reach all the goals of our mission statement we wrote in Woodburn School District in 1996: as a diverse community—prepare **all** students to achieve challenging goals and aspirations and **contribute** to a diverse world.

I ask you to give all our students the opportunity to attend our public universities as the residents of our State, their home, the right to have equal access to higher education; I assure you they have earned it.