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# AOI TESTIMONY – HB 2787 BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

February 13, 2013

## AOI Supports HB 2787

AOI supports tuition equity legislation that extends in-state tuition rates to all qualified graduates of Oregon high schools, regardless of immigration status, who attended an Oregon high school, are accepted to an Oregon public university, and show that they are working toward residency.

### Tuition Equity legislation would strengthen economic growth in Oregon:

- Educated Oregonians are essential for economic recovery and growth. Post-secondary education attainment leads to significantly higher wages for individuals and increased economic success for businesses, thereby strengthening the state's economic growth.
- Tuition Equity legislation helps taxpayers realize a return on their investment: In the 1982 case *Plyler v. Doe*, the U.S. Supreme Court held that a child of undocumented parents cannot be denied a basic public K-12 education. Thus, Oregon taxpayers make a substantial investment in such children. It stands to reason that those taxpayers should be allowed to realize the benefits of this initial investment by improving access to post-secondary education wherever possible.
- Tuition Equity legislation is important to future business success: Oregon has fallen below the national average in educational attainment for ages twenty-five to forty-four. If current trends continue, we will be unable to fill the need for highly-skilled workers through increased migration of college-educated workers from other states. Tuition equity will provide access to college for more Oregon students.

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