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To Members of the Ways & Means Education Subcommittee,

My name is Devon Backstom and I am a student senator from Portland State University and a member of the Oregon Student Association. I am here today to discuss an issue that is very important to me; the increasing cost of higher education in my state.

I'm a pre-med student chasing my dream of becoming a pediatrician and I struggle every month just trying to budget my already restrictive financial situation. This years proposed increases for PSU students are 3.8%, modest in comparison to the recent recession but still enormously above the increased wages of the average Oregonian. I have three dollars a day for food and the proposed increase in tuition on my campus is equivalent to three months of groceries for me.

What could be more damaging to my already restrictive financial situation? Institutional boards, like those proposed in SB 270. 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 per board, per year. This is too much to spend to create boards that will do nothing to increase the educational attainment of Oregonians. The victims of the cost of these boards will be students like me and our statewide 40-40-20 goals will be caught in the crossfire.

Students value statewide governing system that provide increased accountability to the people of Oregon, reduce state costs, and create a more unified & quality system of higher education for Oregon. Without a statewide board to maintain a holistic statewide vision, some campuses and regions of the state will suffer at the expense of others.

These boards are contrary to Oregon's Goals, they're contrary to student's goals, and they're contrary to good sense. Please consider the burden that will be placed on the backs of students and families by establishing institutional boards which only promise bloating administrations, costly competition, and a system that caters to special interests. This is not the way to fix Oregon's universities. Please Oppose SB 270

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