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Hello Co-Chairs and Members of the Committee,

My name is Dave Coburn and I am a student from Portland State University and a board of directors member of the Oregon Student Association.

I am urging a no vote on Senate Bill 270. Students have voiced clear & consistent opposition to these boards. Governing boards are an unnecessary expense of at least 1 million and upwards of 5 million per board per year. Raising our expenses this significantly against the backdrop of more tuition increases is not a smart move for Oregon. Students already have high tuition and debt loads on their backs they don't need to carry an unelected board without the voices of key stakeholders as well.

Students see no benefit to local boards. We have been told that governing boards will guarantee an increase in philanthropy, but a nationwide review by the Oregon University System found that there is no correlation between institutional boards and increased philanthropy. The review did however find that local boards are associated with higher rates of growth in resident tuition compared to schools with system wide boards. Low resident tuition is essential to 40-40-20. The state cannot afford to make this structural change if it is serious about achieving this goal.

We have been told that local boards would allow board members to give more focused 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 a local board?

Some of you may wonder why students so strongly oppose SB 270 when campus specific boards have worked well for community colleges. I believe they are vastly different for the following reasons:

- 1.) Community colleges serve a profoundly local mission, receive local dollars, serve their local communities, and are governed by local community members. Universities are fundamentally different and serve a statewide mission.
- 2.) The institutional boards being proposed will not be filled with average citizens; they will be filled by those beholden to powerful special interests.

Oregon students want a streamlined and efficient higher education system that makes sure that a college education is affordable and accessible to all Oregonians, not the bloated mess that SB 270 will create which adds yet another layer of bureaucracy and expense to getting an education in Oregon. Don't shut the doors to higher education for more Oregonians.

Please oppose Senate Bill 270.

Thank you.