



635 NE Dekum St, Portland, OR, 97211 | (503) 286-0477 | [www.orstudents.org](http://www.orstudents.org) | @OregonStudents

Galen Russell, Student of Portland State University  
Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education  
Re: Opposition to SB 270A

To the Members of the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education,

My name is Galen Russell and I am a first-year student at Portland State and a member of the Oregon Student Association. I am here to urge that you oppose Senate Bill 270. Students across the state oppose SB 270 and ask for your support in opposing it as well.

Institutional boards are expensive. The fiscal impact statement attached to SB 270 has estimated that the cost of running institutional boards could be \$1 million to \$5 million or more. Elected officials sometimes spend that amount of money like it is nothing, but that isn't nothing to students. \$5 million dollars would buy a year's worth of textbooks for 7,142 students. It would put a year's worth of food on the table for 4,340 students. It would provide an additional 2,500 Oregon Opportunity Grants for Oregon students most in need.

Furthermore, it is no secret to students that the cost of establishing institutional boards would fall on the backs of students and family. Tuition has gone up 32% on my campus in the last 5 years and with a likely new increase of 3.8%, students cannot afford these boards. I'm lucky enough that I can live with my parents, and be able to count on them to help with books and for food. I'm fortunate that I've been awarded the Oregon Opportunity Grant next year, which only every 2 in 10 students who qualify actually receive. But even after all that support, after just two and a half terms at PSU, I am already over \$6,000 in debt. And it is nauseating to say that I'm one of the luckier students.

At PSU alone, administrative costs have soared 144% in preparation for an institutional board it doesn't need. If we're going to be spending money on administration, doesn't it make sense to spend it on the services that are needed most? For example, it took my International Baccalaureate credits and my Clackamas Community College credits *six months* to transfer, barring me from registering for upper division courses for which I already had the requisite knowledge.

In all the voices you have heard during this legislative session thus far on SB 270, please don't forget that of the students; the main stakeholders in any decision made regarding institutional boards. Students have stated loud and clear that we want a streamlined and efficient higher education system that makes sure that a college education is affordable and accessible to all Oregonians, not a dissected system that will place an ever greater financial burden upon students.

Thank for the opportunity to express my concerns.