

Testimony AGAINST “In-State Tuition” for Illegal Immigrants- 2/13/2013

Honorable Representatives and Senators:

The majority of my testimony really is in the form of questions...questions I would sincerely like to see answered:

- 1) Will illegals who are given in-state tuition also be afforded “minority status?” In other words will they also receive special benefits for their heritage, race, or whatever else may be relevant by current laws? If so, why?
- 2) What do you say to the 18 year old Oregon (or Idaho, Kansas, or Ohio) citizen whose family has lived and worked in this country for 200 years, but now would have to compete for a slot in a tax-payer supported college against those with “special” privileges, whose family came here illegally?
- 3) What do you say to (and how do you treat) the individuals who have green cards or other LEGAL status, and are waiting in line for their citizenship? Do they also receive special privileges?
- 4) Don't you consider it stealing from law-abiding Oregonians to give this special privilege to illegal immigrants?
- 5) Yes, some of these students came as children...but, you do know that most of them can get a free or low cost education in their own countries, don't you? (Also, see number 6).
- 6) And, for anyone, and I mean ANYONE who wants to go to college, there is always a way. Why should Oregonians pay for illegals to get any degree? Or, will there be only certain degrees which are eligible, such as Engineering, where we, as a country have needs? (NOTE: As a divorced Mom, I worked FULL-Time and went to College, living with my parents part of that time. Got ZERO government support, except a small \$2000 loan which I repaid.)
- 7) In other countries where college is “free” there are rigorous tests in order to be accepted. Would that be true under this policy? Rigorous testing?
- 8) Should we not concentrate on educating the current population of illegals at the K-12 levels? Or is Oregon succeeding spectacularly in that realm?
- 9) Do you realize if this were to pass it is a violation of Federal Law? The Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act in Section 1623 of the law, says: state colleges and universities are prohibited from providing in-state tuition rates to illegal aliens “on the basis of residence within the State” unless the same in-state rates are offered to all citizens of the United States.”
- 10) Who do you think will be most hurt by this change in policy...the “Rich” or the “Middle Class” citizens of Oregon?
- 11) And, finally, is the State Education system (and the State budget) so flush with money that we can afford to give in-state tuition to anyone, which is essentially what is being proposed?

My great grandmother came to the United States from Germany with her mother and father (and older sisters) at the age of 18 months. Her family came through Castle Garden, at the time when States ran immigration. There they were examined and also had to prove they had the means to support themselves, i.e. sponsorship. Yes, she and her family came legally. They received no support from the government. She would be appalled by our elected public servants offering discounted or free government services to illegal immigrants today.

Does seem absurd, insulting, and irresponsible, doesn't it?

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