



CITY OF  
**PORTLAND, OREGON**

**Charlie Hales, Mayor**  
Amanda Fritz, Commissioner  
Nick Fish, Commissioner  
Dan Saltzman, Commissioner  
Steve Novick, Commissioner

February, 13 2013

Michael Dembrow, Chair  
House Higher Education and Workforce Development Committee  
900 Court St. NE, Room 453  
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support for HB 2787

Dear Chair Dembrow and Members of the Committee:

We are writing to express our strong support for HB 2787, which will grant an exemption from nonresident tuition at institutions of higher education for Oregon students that are not U.S. citizens.

As we all know, the increasing cost of tuition at institutions of higher education has placed a college degree out of reach for many students. The ability to receive in-state tuition as opposed to out-of-state tuition can mean the difference between attending or not attending college. While HB 2787 provides a simple legislative fix, it will have a huge impact on the lives of bright young students across the state.

It is critical, particularly in these difficult economic times, that we do everything in our power to ensure that Oregon has a well-educated and trained workforce. By providing an exemption to non-resident tuition rates for students that have received their primary education in Oregon but are not legal U.S. citizens, HB 2787 brings the dream of a college education within reach of deserving young adults and helps contribute to the creation of a strong workforce.

HB 2787 is an important step that Oregon can take to provide greater equity for all Oregon residents. We urge your support for HB 2787.

Sincerely,

Charlie Hales  
Mayor

Amanda Fritz  
Commissioner

Nick Fish  
Commissioner

Dan Saltzman  
Commissioner

Steve Novick  
Commissioner