

Western Regional Office
915 L Street, Suite 1425
Sacramento, CA 95814
916-442-0392 (voice) 916-446-4028 (fax)
Web site: www.hacu.net



March 18, 2013

RE: Letter of Support for HB 2787

The Honorable Mark Hass
Chair, Senate Education and Workforce Development Committee
900 Court St. NE, Room 453
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Senator Hass:

On behalf of the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU), I am writing in strong support of House Bill (HB) 2787, which would provide that certain students are entitled to exemption from nonresident tuition and fees at state institutions of higher education.

HB 2787 presents the opportunity to ensure that all of Oregon's high school students who have attended high school in the state of Oregon for three years and successfully graduated from an Oregon high school are able to pay in-state tuition at Oregon's colleges and universities.

Some may criticize HB 2787 for granting special rights or privileges to students who should not be in our country. The truth is, these students find themselves in this country through no fault of their own, are taking steps to change their status, and have lived up to the expectations we have of our youth – they followed the guidelines of their parents and society, worked hard, and became competitively eligible for institutions of higher education. Though challenged in other states, similar laws have been upheld in each state that provides in-state tuition for this student population. Oregon can choose to harness their intellect, and foster a business-friendly climate by preparing all of the state's future workers, or stand by and let slip another opportunity to support hardworking, deserving students.

I respectfully ask for your support of HB 2787 and its efforts to make college a reality for all Oregon students. If we can be of any assistance, our Executive Director of Western States Legislative Affairs Erica Romero would be happy to help your office. Erica may be reached at eromero@hacu.net or (916) 442-0392.

Sincerely,

Antonio Flores
President and CEO

CC: Members, Senate Education and Workforce Committee
Erica M. Romero, Executive Director of Western States Legislative Affairs