

Chair Hass and members of the committee

Good afternoon my name is Jesus blanco Cruz. I was Born in mexico city, mexico. I was just a year old when me and my family to exape poverty. My parents sacrificed everything: there friends,family just to give me a better life they made those sacrifices just for me. I have been living here for my whole life. But I am different. I am one of those people that are referred as "Illegals " but prefer the word "undocumented". I was in the phase of applying into high school when I finally realized that I had a different situation. I wanted to attend high school to prove that I was not going to give up that no matter what high school I attend that I wouldnt give up. I want to graduate no matter what.It was an open house at a private high school. It was always my dream to go to that high school but that day of the open house my dreams shattered, why? Because I lacked a 9 digit number. I was devastated. Then everything started to change, I started to think I was not able to make it college that I was just going to look for a job in hope that I found one and give up on my education. However I knew that this was not an option.

if this bill passes i am going to have to choose between being a beaver or a duck. After college i want to persue a career in the medical field. I want to be a surgen that helps people, specially when they are in a life or death situation. no matter what carrier or profession my parents told me they will be proud of me.

If you vote yes on tuition equity it won't help just me but many of us. Many of us are going to be able to bring cures for diseases that couldn't not be cured. You hold the

power to either turn the back to me and my friends or be a champion by voting yes on tuition equity.

As a result of the referendum, the state will have a new revenue source to help pay for the state's share of the cost of higher education.

The referendum will also help to ensure that the state's share of the cost of higher education is not reduced by the state's budget cuts.

By voting yes on the referendum, you are helping to ensure that the state's share of the cost of higher education is not reduced by the state's budget cuts.

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To: Senate Education Committee
From: Jesus Blanco Cruz
Date: March 19th, 2013
Re: Testimony in Support of Tuition Equity

Chair Hass and Members of the Committee,

My name is Jesus Blanco Cruz, and I am an undocumented high school student. I am currently a freshman. I was born in Mexico City, Mexico, and I was brought to the U.S. when I was 4 years old for a life that my parents never had. My parents brought me here to study and to reach my dreams. However, some of those dreams have been shattered.

Since I started high school, it has been my dream to graduate early and then attend medical school. Like most Americans, it is my dream to get a job, have a car, own a house, and live independently. One day I was told about the tuition costs that I will have to pay to attend college and medical school. For me it's twice as hard to obtain a college education since I am undocumented. Because of this, I have to pay 2-3 times as much as my peers. I've been living in the U.S. my whole life and I don't know why it should be different for me since I have been living in Oregon for the same amount of time as many others who pay in-state tuition.

I want to attend medical school because I want to help those who are ill or have poor health. But without tuition equity, my options are limited to graduation from high school and getting a job that I never wanted but will have to take in order to survive. I probably won't be able to expand my education to get a good job because the cost of higher education is out of reach for me. Please remove this unnecessary barrier for young people who are our future. Tuition equity would make an incredible difference in my life and the lives of many other smart and talented undocumented youth.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to present this testimony, and I respectfully ask the Committee to move this bill forward.

