



Associated Oregon Industries

HB 2787-A, the Tuition Equity bill, supports the Oregon business community's goal of achieving a more educated and skilled workforce. Oregon's economy relies on a highly skilled and trained workforce to meet the economic demands of the present and the future. As the global economy increasingly requires advanced educational attainment, it is important that all Oregonians have the opportunity to become trained and skilled to remain competitive.

Oregon businesses support HB 2787-A for the following reasons:

Educated Oregonians are essential for economic recovery and growth. Post-secondary education attainment leads to significantly higher wages for individuals, giving them increased buying power. Higher wages lead to more economic activity and greater success for businesses, thereby strengthening the state's economic growth.

It's about Return On Investment: Oregon taxpayers have made a substantial investment in the K-12 education of these students. We can double-down on that initial investment by granting them access to a college education and the increased lifetime earning power (and increased tax revenue) that come with it.

It's important to future business success: As we know, Oregon has fallen below the national average in educational attainment for ages twenty-five to forty-four. If current trends continue, we will be unable to fill the need for highly-skilled workers through increased migration of college-educated workers from other states. We cannot afford to continue down this road if we want to attract and retain employers in the state.

We pride ourselves that Oregon's livability is a magnet for young, smart people who move here from other states, but we are falling short in terms of educating the youth who grow up in Oregon. This decline in educational achievement means that, in an increasingly global economy, Oregonians will be less prepared to compete for quality family-wage jobs, both internationally and at home.

It is imperative to Oregon's economy that we ensure that all Oregon high schools students have the ability and the opportunity to go to college.

Please join us in supporting HB 2787-A.

FROM THE DESK OF
REPRESENTATIVE
CHRIS HARKER