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March 24th, 2015

To: Senate Education Committee  
From: Juan Navarro  
RE: SB 932 Access to Opportunity

Chair Roblan and Members of the Committee, My name is Juan Navarro and I am a student at Western Oregon University and a member of the Oregon Student Association. I am also an undocumented student and I am here today to ask you to support SB 932 Access to Opportunity.

I am currently studying exercise science with a human biology minor and focus in pre-physical therapy. When I graduate I want to be a physical therapist. I spent most of my childhood in physical therapy, 17 years to be exact, because of my disability. I've recently finished my last year in rehab and want to go on to pursue a career in physical therapy because I want to be able to give back in the same way I have been helped.

I am a transfer student from Chemeketa Community College. I chose this route because I couldn't afford being at an university for my entire undergraduate college education. I went to school part-time because I pay out of pocket for my education and that was all I could afford. That's why it took me three years to finish at Chemeketa and was able to transfer to Western and not be charged out of state tuition. I avoided being charged out of state tuition but I could have easily needed to take another term which would have meant that I no longer qualified for in state tuition. I know some fellow students that weren't able to transfer to a university before the three year grace period and are now priced out of Oregon Universities. .

I urge you to support SB 932 because it would help so many Oregonians. I know an individual at Chemeketa who had the financial pressures get to her. She was about to quit college all together. My advice to her was that keep working hard and good things will happen. Please vote yes on SB 932 Access to Opportunity and let this be one of the good things that happen to her and many other hard working students in our community.

Thank you.

Juan Navarro  
Western Oregon University