



**Momentum Alliance
700 N Killingsworth, Portland, OR 97230
Testimony of Karla Morales-Galicia
In support of SB932, Access to Opportunity
March 24, 2015**

Dear Chair Roblan, Vice Chair Knopp and Esteemed Members of the Committee,

Hello my name is Karla Morales-Galicia and I am a student at Portland Community College. I am here today to ask you to support SB932, Access to Opportunity.

I arrived to the land of the free when I was only two years old. I don't remember how I got here... I don't remember much. I remember my parents always working and my two older sisters in school. I was put in day care at an early age, where I learned and fell in love with the language and later on the history of the United States. My parents struggled to get us by for the first few years.

In third grade I was introduced to a new word, college. The more I would hear about this foreign place, the more I fell in love with it, and I soon made it my dream and goal to get there. In 2004 my eldest sister graduated high school and began living my dream. I saw her very little, she worked full time and was a full time student, but she was still a constant reminder of my goal. I was still young and did not realize what her and my parents were going through to put her through college. In 2008 my other sister also graduated from high school, and by then I was old enough to understand why my parents and sister would kill themselves at work and school. My sisters spoke very little to me about how expensive college was because they wanted me to have a worry free childhood and young adult life.

When my junior year of high school came around and I knew it was time, my time. I began my college search by researching very college there is. I spent most of my time meeting with a college adviser, so he could help me pick what college was right for me. I had my top three university all set and ready, when he told me I was aiming too high. According to him, I was likely to not get admitted and if I were to get admitted, how would I even pay for it? At first I was angry... how could he say that being my college adviser? I worked hard to get the grades I earned, I was very involved in school from photo editor of my school paper to co-captain of the cheerleading squad.

I did not realize was he meant until I talked to my older sister about it. He was referring to me being undocumented. I didn't think about my documentation status because my sisters were accomplishing my dream. My parent, and two sisters offer to help me pay for it. But I didn't want my whole family to have to work themselves out just to get me through college, so I decided to not attend a university. I spent my senior year working, applying to scholarships and saving as much money as I could, so that my family would not have to pay for anything.

I am now in my second year at Portland Community College. About two months ago, I learned that Tuition Equity HB 2787 only allows you to attend community college for three years, I still need three terms in order to transfer. I am a full time student taking 19 credits and part time



worker. I'm not sure how much more I can do. You have the decision of allowing me to continue fulfilling my dream and work towards a better future for my family. Please help me.

I urge you to support SB932, Access to Opportunity. Thank you once again for your time.

Sincerely,
Karla Morales-Galicia

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