



To: Co-Chair Monroe and Co-Chair Komp
and Members of the Joint Ways and Means Education Subcommittee

From: Tasha Silvius, Oregon Tech Student Athlete

Subject: Sports Lottery Fund

Date: March 27, 2015

Dear Co-Chair Komp, Co- Chair Monroe, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to tell you how the Sports Lottery fund has made a direct impact on my education. I am on the Softball team at Oregon Tech and seeking a degree in Mechanical Engineering. The Sports Lottery funding has given me the opportunity to come to a highly accredited engineering school with a very large success rate all while still being able to enjoy and use my skills to compete at a higher level. Without the Sports Lottery fund I would have to work all of the time in order to pay for school and wouldn't have the time to put in the effort my degree requires. With softball I am able to make time to enjoy and relax myself in a productive way. The sports lottery has helped me focus on school instead of worrying about trying to finance my school. I know that I am not the only one that feels like the Sports Lottery funding has affected our lives in a positive way. Without the funding opportunities for those in need with great skill wouldn't be able to progress productively in their future. Oregon Tech athletics has helped me build skills like time management and keeps the focus on what really matters. The Athletic department has given us the chance to not only challenge ourselves physically but mentally also. Academics come first here at Oregon Tech and that's what makes this athletic department stand out from other schools. Athletes choose to come to Oregon Tech to make memories, to do something that matters to them, and to be proud of every moment. Thanks to the funding I will be able to look back on my time here at Oregon Tech and say it's been nothing but enjoyable and was one of the best times of my life.

The de-funding of Sports Lottery will also have a quick and direct impact on both female and male athletics at Oregon Tech. Through Sports Lottery funding Oregon Tech provides higher education access to nearly 300 student athletes. Being engaged in intercollegiate athletics, while pursuing an academic degree, has a positive multiplier effect on students. Data show that the average student-athlete has better retention rates, GPAs and graduation rates than students do overall. Sports Lottery funding is also a primary way that campuses are able to meet Title IX requirements to equitably fund women's athletics programs.

I urge you to support the full 1% of lottery funds for university athletic programs, as is required in statute.

Sincerely,

Tasha Silvius
Student Athlete
Oregon Tech