



April 14, 2015

Ways and Means Sub Education Committee

Co-Chairs Betty Komp and Rod Monroe; Senators Roblan and Thomsen; Representatives Huffman, Smith Warner, Sprenger and Taylor:

SEIU Local 503 represents 4,500 classified support workers at the seven University Campuses and 55,000 members statewide who know that Higher Education and student success is of utmost importance for Oregon families and our economy.

We are all aware that the state of OR has consistently reduced funding to higher Education as shown below. All of us agree that needs to be reversed and is why we are asking to return to 2007-2009 state funding levels and stop the reverse trend. That means \$693 Million to return to that level and an estimated \$62 Million to freeze tuition for a total of \$755 Million.

Students and their families are rightfully angry and depressed by skyrocketing tuition costs and family/personal debt. We support the need for more state resources and to focus every dollar towards student services and classroom success - as we too have family members, neighbors and friends who will rely on affordable, accessible public higher education to get a leg up in this economy.

An allied organization - **Invest in Oregon** – has identified a number of the ways to help the legislature fund our return to 2007-2009 funding levels and other vital state services. The **Invest in Oregon** report is linked here: <http://thesockeye.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/invest-in-oregon.pdf>

We believe you can find your way - working with other legislative colleagues - to reach our needed funding goals for the coming biennium.

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It is of utmost important to all Oregonians that we stem the tide of disinvestment in Higher Education.

State Funding Matrix for Public Universities:

	2007-09 Past	2013-15 Present	Governor Proposed 2015-17	Co-chairs 2015-17 Budget	GOALS for 2015-17
	Past	Present	Future	Future	Future
Oregon Public Universities	\$693 Million	\$483 Million +\$40 Million (tuition freeze)	\$626 Million	\$635 Million	\$693 Million \$62 Million to freeze tuition = \$755 Million

Thank you for your consideration. Sincerely,

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