

Good afternoon, Sen. Girod or Rep. Read and esteemed Members of the Committee;

For the record, my name is Brent Finkbeiner. I am board chair of the Oregon Community College Student Association, an Army veteran and current attending Clackamas Community College.

This year, more than ever, safety has risen as a top priority for Oregon community college students. Just like you, we speak with constituents all day, every day. We celebrate their successes and we listen to their fears and concerns.

I'm here today to share with you the fears and concerns of my brother and sister students. Like many community colleges in Oregon, CCC is turning 50 this year and has aging infrastructure and inferior communication systems.

Recently, the Oregon Community College Student Association conducted a student survey about student's priority issues. The most important one that came up is campus safety. And two factors of campus safety that we can fix right now are communication infrastructure and physical security.

For communications, we need redundant notification systems that will notify us immediately of any incident so we can protect ourselves.

For example, CCC doesn't have speakers in the majority of its classrooms. We are cut off from what is happening outside. If there was a chemical spill, explosion or a gun shot in one of the labs or classrooms, how would we know? *Speakers in + out*

~~We need speaker systems in classrooms and we need loudspeakers in open spaces. And we need the funding to make this infrastructure happen.~~

In addition to communication we need physical security improvements. We need surveillance cameras. Alarm systems. Locks on our classroom doors. Better lighting in our parking lots.

I'm asking you, on behalf of all Oregon community college students, to release a ~~modest~~ amount of ^{19.32} ~~8.7~~ million in capital funding as soon as possible. We have the funds to match and we can act right now. We all know it's not a matter of if a disaster will hit, it is when. We want to be prepared.

A lesson learned by one is a lesson learned by all.

Thank you.