



STATE OF OREGON
OREGON STATE TREASURY

900 COURT STREET NE, ROOM 159
SALEM, OREGON 97301

Senate Bill 55
Joint Committee on Ways and Means
March 3, 2017

Chair Devlin, Chair Nathanson and members of the committee,

It was a proud moment two years ago when we passed the Oregon Promise. This legislation opened doors for more for Oregon students to continue their education at Oregon's community colleges.

Early on this program is showing signs of success - encouraging students who were not considering higher education to do so. Oregon Promise is the kind of program that is making a difference in students' lives.

In fact, a study released earlier this week from Education Northwest indicates that Oregon Promise is encouraging more first generation college students to further their education at Oregon's community colleges.

The study also reported that more students than expected participated in Oregon Promise, with "nearly 6,800 recent high school graduates and GED completers" enrolling in Community College through the program.

This program offers the opportunity of post-secondary education to Oregon students in all regions of our state and improves the economic well-being of our residents and communities.

By opening the doors, and encouraging college and vocational education, we are building a more prepared and skilled generation of Oregonians.

I strongly support the legislation before you to remove the cap on the amount of aid that can be awarded in this program and allow it to continue to serve Oregon students.

Thank you.