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To: House Committee on Higher Education and Workforce Development

From: Rachel Grisham

RE: HB 2666

Hello Chair Reardon, Vice-Chairs Alonso-Leon and Whisnant, committee members,

My name is Rachel Grisham, and I am a student at Oregon State University in my senior year, majoring in Public Health and I serve as the President of ASOSU, as well as on the Board of Directors for the Oregon Student Association.

Given my role, I have the privilege of being a pivotal person in the student fee setting process. This is my fourth year involved in the student fee process in some capacity or another. At Oregon State, we have an extensive process that involves the individual budget units, the Student Incidental Fee Committee, and the student government.

At every step of the process, students are entitled and even required to be involved in ways beyond just rubber stamping in approval. Students determine what units are student fee funded, how much they will receive in funds, and assess the longevity of each unit in respect to funding. Students assist in crafting budgets, with consideration of the impact of these fees and services on fellow students.

The student involvement and engagement at Oregon State with respect to student fees characterizes the culture of our campus as one that empowers students to be involved in ways that not only amplifies our voices and needs, but also provides students the opportunities to be decision makers. This process is what I like to call, “the bread of butter of student government.” At our core, this is the most important process that we do as an organization and we wouldn’t be fully representing students, if we didn’t take ownership of this process.

With the support of faculty and staff, we are able to not only lead and facilitate the process, but also make the crucial decisions that directly impact the daily lives of students on our campus, which is our ultimate job as a student government.

It is crucial that students be able to take on decision making roles in this process, because often there are so many decisions made on our behalf without even a mere consult. If we are to truly educate students, then it is vital that these processes be handed over to them.

Thank you for your time,

Rachel Grisham

Student at Oregon State University

President of the Associated Students of Oregon State University