

April 17, 2017

Oregon Legislative Assembly  
Joint Committee on Ways and Means  
Subcommittee on Education  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301



Dear Co-Chair Senator Monroe, Co-Chair Representative Smith Warner, and Members of the Subcommittee,

My name is Lauren Aldana, I am a senior at SOU. I am in the honors college majoring in political science and also a member of the women's soccer team.

While I am here on an academic scholarship, I chose SOU primarily because of the soccer program. I came to SOU fully aware that I wasn't going to be playing professionally after my time here. Competing at a small school, provides students with a place to perform on the field and also excel in the classroom. Our teams take competition very seriously, and we travel as far as Montana during regular season.

Retention, is the technical word used when talking about student's completion, but in athletics we call it getting each other's back and teamwork. When someone is struggling or not showing up, we notice and we are there. I am proud to say our athletics department has an 89% retention rate, 20% higher than the campus average.

Here at SOU the Sports lottery funding accounts for approximately 15% of operating expenses. It pays for my coaches and makes it possible for my team to travel. I am asking you today to please put the sports lottery funding back in the budget. We, at the small schools depend on it.

Thank you

Lauren Aldana  
Student Athlete, Southern Oregon University