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Chairs Hass and Barnhart and Members of the Committee,

My Name is Kaitlyn Dey and I'm a student at Portland State University and a member of the Oregon Student Association. I'm finishing my second year and I anticipate graduating with over 40,000 in debt. I am currently a social work major and I'm involved in community and student organizing, including my work in the Portland State University Student Union (PSUSU). I am inspired to do this work, because I believe students have a lot of power and I believe it is the job of our legislators to allow students the chance to realize their full potential.

Firstly I want thank you for coming to the table to pass something to reduce the cuts to education. The proposal you have is progress but it doesn't do enough.

I have been working with PSUSU hearing the stories of students who are the most impacted by high tuition at PSU, I share the sentiments and stories of many of the people I have talked to and worked with.

PSUSU organizes in the basement of the Smith Memorial Student Union building. Down the hall from us is the food pantry. Everyday the food pantry has a line out the door hours before it opens. It is wrong to force students to make choices between eating and going to class, while forcing the next generation into even greater amounts of debt because of high tuition costs. I know my chosen profession won't lead me to a big salary and I worry about my ability to serve the community when I'll be under so much debt. Currently, I rely on loans to pay my rent, pay for food, and other living expenses. I am afraid I may be unable to pay off my student loans in the future.

PSU is facing a 9% tuition increase. The only way we can reduce this oncoming impact is to pass a revenue plan that directly addresses the need for support of higher education. We need more in order to reach our budget asks which are 765 million for universities, 655 for community colleges and 155 million for the Oregon Opportunity Grant.

WE NEED legislators to come forward and have the courage to make an Oregon that they will be proud to leave the next generation. Students need the legislature to act now to make sure college doesn't become even more out of reach.