



635 NE Dekum St, Portland, OR, 97211 | (503) 286-0477 | www.orstudents.org | @OregonStudents

Hello CO-Chair Hass and Barnhart, Vice-Chairs, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Sherri Bowman, I am a student at Lane Community College, and I recently completed an internship with the Oregon Student Association. I want to thank the committee for developing a revenue plan which is in urgent need this biennium. However, the current proposal is still far from what is needed to fully fund Higher Education. Without full funding, students will suffer, especially students from marginalized communities.

I am a student who works 6 jobs just to help pay for school, rent, car payments, and other needed life expenses. Having to work so much to make ends meet has made it tough for me to keep up with my classes and it is a constant struggle to not fall behind. Higher education is already underfunded, if we don't get the full funding that is needed this session then my dream of being a private investigator will be gone. Without sufficient funding, I won't be able to afford school anymore and I will have to dropout. To you, \$1,850 in tuition may not seem like much, but for myself and many other students it is enough to price us out.

I am not the only student who is taking on more and more jobs each year to make ends meet. I am not the only student who is being priced out of higher education. Will you make changes that will address the systemic revenue problems we face, or will you continue to provide short term solutions continuing our revenue crisis? Don't price us out of the "American Dream". We need advocates for students in higher ed.; can we count on you to support better funding for higher education? Thank you.