



THE OREGON STUDENT ASSOCIATION

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TO: Senate Education Committee
FROM: Cristina Garcia
SUBJECT: SB 1563 – Tuition Equity
DATE: February 7th, 2017

Chair Roblan and Members of the Committee:

My name is Cristina Garcia I am a 3rd year student at Western Oregon University, and I am here with the Oregon Student Association to urge your support of Senate Bill 1563,

I benefit from Tuition Equity. I decided to attend WOU because this campus offered me the best support system. The Student Enrichment Program is one of the main resources on campus that has allowed me to stay enrolled by offering their services and support.

Being enrolled at WOU has allowed me to discover an admiration towards Public Health and Social Justice. Studying in a small campus has allowed me to have a better relationship with my professors and classmates and improve my grades. Being involved on campus has also allowed me to learn more about social justice issues.

Tuition Equity has allowed me to successfully continue my higher education career. If it wouldn't have been for Tuition Equity, there is no way that I would be able to afford paying over \$20,000 per year in tuition. Compared to approximately \$9,500 of tuition. I don't believe that I would have had the same experience in a community college in Hood River where there are less resources and support for undocumented students. I currently do not benefit from scholarships, however, the Student Enrichment Program has helped pay for extra fees and books. It also helps me to save money for food.

If Tuition Equity did were not in place, it would require me to applying for more scholarships and that requires a lot of time and dedication to apply to more scholarships.

I don't feel like I have financial barriers. I am fortunate that most of my tuition is paid for through local scholarships. Other barriers that I face is not being able to work and receive work study. Most of the places that I would like to work for on campus require work study and I have to work for a job that is off campus. This prevents me from applying to several programs on campus.

This is why I support SB 1563 and encourage this committee to pass it.

Please remember my story when voting on this bill. Thank you for letting me speak with you today.

Sincerely,

Cristina Garcia
Western Oregon University
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