



February 22nd, 2018

TO: House higher Education and Workforce Development Committee
FROM: Ricardo Lujan-Valerio, OSA Legislative Director
SUBJECT: SB 1557

Chair Reardon and Members of the Committee:

The Oregon Student Association (OSA) would like to extend its support for Senate Bill 1557. Our organization, composed of over 100,000 students statewide, recognize the importance of making higher education more affordable and accessible to all, including those that serve our country.

SB 1557 would extend the academic and financial benefits for students who serve in our armed forces and have to report for duty for more than 30 days. This opportunity would be given to those who attend a community college or university in our state. Current Oregon state law allows those who are in the National Guard and Reserve to gain academic relief when they are required to report for duty. Unfortunately, only those who leave for 30 days or more gain this benefit. Often times, however, we see students report for duty for wither a weekend of drills or a timeframe shorter than 30 days. For these students, the financial and academic burden increases.

As student leaders, OSA members recognize the impact one's grade has if you miss a single day of a term, especially during midterms or finals. It is important to recognize existing barriers imposed on our students when pursuing higher education and afford as much assistance and opportunities as possible.

The Oregon Student Association respectfully requests that you vote yes on Senate Bill 1557 on this committee and on the House floor. Thank you for your time and consideration. I am available for any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

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