



THE OREGON STUDENT ASSOCIATION

635 NE Dekum St, Portland, OR, 97211

Phone: (503) 286-0477

www.orstudents.org

TO: House Higher Education and Workforce Development Committee
FROM: Juan Navarro
SUBJECT: SB 1563 – Tuition Equity
DATE: February 22nd, 2018

Chair Reardon and Members of the Committee:

My name is Juan Navarro. I am a graduate student with the College Student Services Administration Program at Oregon State University. I am speaking on with the Oregon Student Association and Capaces Leadership Institute on behalf of SB 1563.

SB 1563 proposes technical fixes to our current statute that give our Oregonian Dreamers and DACAmented students the opportunity to pursue higher education. This bill will do the following:

1. Oregonian students must fulfill certain requirements to benefit from tuition equity. One of those requirements in to provide an affidavit that indicated the intent to obtain a social security number (SSN) or an individual tax identification number (I-TIN). This new bill would eliminate this unnecessary requirement.
2. Allow public higher education institutions to offer scholarships to Dreamers and DACAmented Oregonian students and financial aid to those benefiting from tuition equity.

I immigrated to this country when I was three years old. I am undocumented and consider myself a dreamer. I came to seek medical treatment when my home country could not provide that medical treatment. I received six surgeries and twelve years of physical therapy, so I could walk for the first time when I was fifteen years old. Ever since then, I have had a drive that if you work hard enough you can do anything. I've loved education ever since that day. I was always a good student and it took a village of people caring to send me to college. Ever since then I knew that giving back would be the least I could do.

I have a passion for equitable education rights for all Oregonians. Undocumented students would benefit so much from getting any bit of help through scholarships. Undocumented students face so much uncertainty in today's world that if we as Oregonians can take these steps to protect our undocumented students, then we become one of the leading states in love for immigrants

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,
Juan Navarro
Oregon State University