



Date: February 22, 2018

To: Oregon House Committee on Higher Education and Workforce

From: Emily McLain, Government Relations Oregon Education Association

Re: Support for SB 1563 Tuition Equity

The Oregon Education Association (OEA) would like to express our strong support for SB 1563. OEA represents over 44,000 members across the state of Oregon. Our members are educators working in pre-kindergarten through grade 12 public schools and community colleges. OEA's membership includes licensed teachers and specialists, classified/education support professionals (ESPs), community college faculty, retired educators, and student members.

OEA strongly believes in access to education for all Oregon students. The passage of tuition equity in the 2013 legislative session was a critical step forward to ensure all Oregon students who grow up in Oregon and graduate from an Oregon high school had access to in-state tuition, regardless of documentation status. SB 1563 addresses issues raised by federal action on DACA. It is very important to maintain access to education for all Oregon students and SB 1563 does just that by removing the unnecessary requirement that Oregon students apply for a federal individual taxpayer identification number or other official federal identification document.

Educators in K-12 work hard to help all students reach their full potential. When it comes time for high school students to start thinking about their dreams and aspirations after high school we want them to dream big. Not having access to in-state tuition used to be a major barrier to talented students simply because of their documentation status. That was not right. This legislation ensures we do not take any steps backwards and it supports Oregon Dreamers.

The Oregon Education Association urges you to support SB 1563. Thank you for your consideration.