



February 26th, 2018

TO: Senate Education Committee
FROM: Ricardo Lujan-Valerio, OSA Legislative Director
SUBJECT: *HB 4141 – Student Voice and Transparency Act*

Chair Roblan and Members of the Committee:

My name is Ricardo Lujan-Valerio and I am the Legislative Director for the Oregon Student Association (OSA). I am here in support of HB 4141, The Student Voice and Transparency Act. This bill would require public universities to establish a tuition-setting advisory body to the university President. During last year's tuition-setting discussions, it became clear that there were major discrepancies in regard to student involvement and availability in most of the campuses. After a long summer of advocating for lower tuition and more transparent processes, student leaders across the state decided to address these discrepancies alongside Rep. Hernandez.

After much deliberation and multiple amendment proposals, I am happy to announce that all parties within higher education are in agreement with the language of HB 4141. This short session has allowed leaders within OSA, public universities, the Higher Education Coordinating Commission, and legislators from both sides of the aisle to come together and develop a policy that will enhance the transparency and availability of student input towards the tuition they pay.

The Oregon Student Association would like to thank the Association of Oregon Faculties, the American Association of University Professors, the American Association of University Women, SEIU 503, Oregon's seven public universities, and many more for the continuous support and input towards this bill.

As we move forwards, our organization will continue to work with universities, community colleges, state agencies, and legislators in order to increase funding for our institutions and make higher education more affordable and accessible.

I urge your support for HB 4141 on this committee and on the Senate floor. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Ricardo Lujan-Valerio
Legislative Director, OSA
ricardo@orstudents.org

Ricardo Lujan Valerio | Legislative Director
TEL: 503.286.0447 | CELL: 760.810.2121 | FAX: 503.286.0924
635 NE Dekum St., Portland, OR 97211
ricardo@orstudents.org