Dear Co-Chair Lew Frederick, Co-Chair Susan McLain and members of the Joint Ways and Means Committee for Education,

I am a student at Pacific University's teacher education program and an Oregon Teacher Scholar. I am testifying in favor of HB 5015, which has included support for the Oregon Teacher Scholars Program through the Educator Advancement Council. Thank you very much for supporting this program. OTSP has quite literally saved my education.

Both of my parents are permanently disabled and are currently unemployed. Every year it pains me to watch them struggle to afford my college tuition. They put my education above all else, but I know its great cost weighs heavy on them. However, my scholarship from OTSP has given my family and I the desperate relief we need. Even more than that, it has given me hope that I can earn my education and become the empowered educator I strive to be. The people at OTSP are caring, committed individuals who have given me the tools, advice, and support I need as a future teacher.

I have not received less than an 'A' during my three years at Pacific University. My current GPA is 3.959. I have worked part-time and volunteered in my community throughout my college career, and have recently added eight hours per week of field observations in schools. I am the type of person who loves learning so much that I would be a student as an occupation if I could (hence, why I want to be the next best thing: a teacher). I have proven that I deserve my place at Pacific University, and that I will make the most of it by passing on my same love of learning to my future students. I just need a little help to reach that future, and the OTSP has given me that. Please continue to support the Oregon Teacher Scholars Program for students like me, whose only dream is to teach.

Thank you for your time!

Sincerely,

Lillian Rose Wolfe Washington County, Forest Grove Junior at Pacific University

Lillian R. Wolfe

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