

Oregon Student Association



March 11, 2019

Chair Wagner, Vice Chair Thomsen, and members of the committee,

My name is Perla Alvarez and I am the Legislative Director at the Oregon Student Association. The Oregon Student Association represents 120,000 students in Oregon and our core mission is to help create a more accessible and affordable higher education for students. I am writing in support of SB 794.

According to the Institute for Women's Policy Research, about "26% of undergraduate college students have children" and among Black women, "47% are raising dependent children while in school." Additionally, this research shows that "between 2005 and 2015, campus child care declined at public institutions," and that in Oregon about 41-60% of our schools have child care coverage.¹ Currently, we lack comprehensive data in Oregon to see if the in-state data matches the national data.

OSA supports SB 794, which would mandate the Higher Education Coordinating Commission to create a question to identify student parents at institutions. All students should have the necessary programs to be able to succeed. Identifying this demographic information will allow institutions to determine resources needed to better support student parents access and complete their degrees. Senate Bill 794 is the first step into making this possible.

OSA thanks Senator Gelser and legislators for your commitment on this bill and we encourage this committee to support SB 794.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Perla Alvarez Lucio
Legislative Director
Oregon Student Association.

¹ Institute for Women's Policy Research. "Child Care for Parents in College: A State-by-State Assessment," (September 2016)

OREGON STUDENT ASSOCIATION

For more information contact Perla Alvarez, Legislative Director perla@orstudents.org or 503-358-2927
635 NE Dekum St, Portland, OR, 97211 | (503) 286-0477 | www.orstudents.org | @OregonStudents