



Senate Committee on Education
CO: Chair Robert Wagner
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Committee Chair Wagner,

We write to you on behalf of the Pacific Northwest Association for College Admission Counseling (PNACAC). PNACAC is a membership organization of college admission professionals that promotes ethical standards and provides resources through its members to guide and empower students as they prepare for college admission. PNACAC believes that every student in Oregon, the Pacific Northwest and beyond should have access to informed, engaged, and ethical college admission counseling professionals. PNACAC is an affiliate member of the National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC).

According to the American Immigration Council more than 10,000 recipients of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and approximately 130,000 undocumented migrants live in the State of Oregon, many of whom chose to come here for the opportunity to access a better life and greater opportunities. Paying for college can be a huge undertaking, especially for undocumented students. Undeniably, education represents a significant investment in their future, and the future of our state.

We write to urge you to support Senate Bill 958. Passage of this legislation would assist in removing the financial barrier for many Oregonians to attend an in-state university. As the organization Oregon GEAR UP stated in a July 2018 publication, "the cost of college is often the biggest barrier for undocumented students," this bill takes a much-needed step toward helping these students achieve the higher education they so earnestly desire.

Currently, the State of Oregon offers a free public education from kindergarten through the twelfth grade for all students regardless of documentation status. While many undocumented students in the state are eligible to extend their education opportunities beyond high school and attend an in-state public university at the same tuition level as other Oregonians, they do not have access to the same federal financial aid as documented students. Additionally, students across the state struggle to cover the cost of textbooks, meals, housing, and other expenses which are a required part of being a college student. All students deserve the opportunity to access reasonable financial aid to make college a reality and reinvest in our great state.

We thank you for your careful consideration and strongly urge you to join us in supporting SB 958 and establishing the Dreamers Access Program.

Matt Ogawa, PNACAC President
Claire Nold-Glaser, PNACAC President-Elect
Robbie Cupps, PNACAC Past-President
Michael Sass, PNACAC Government Relations Chair