

# Oregon Student Association



March 20, 2019

To: Senate Committee on Education,  
From: Odalis Aguilar  
RE: Senate Bill 859, Tuition Equity 4.0

Good afternoon Senator Wagner and members of the senate education committee,

My name is Odalis Aguilar Aguilar and I am a first year student at the University of Oregon studying Ethnic Studies and Spanish and a Policy Associate for the Oregon Student Association. I am here today in support of SB 859 which is Tuition Equity 4.0.

Oregon is one of the few states that grants in state tuition to students who are undocumented and makes education more accessible and affordable for them. Passing Tuition Equity 1.0 was a long process from the year 2000 all the way to 2013. Right now, more than 6,000 students in Oregon are able to benefit from Tuition Equity and SB 859 works to expand it. Years ago, receiving your Bachelor's degree was a huge accomplishment but as time has gone by, only graduating with a 4 year degree does not seem to be enough for employers. It is turning into a standard to have a Masters degree and while the greater the education someone has, for others including undocumented students their education seems to come to an end after their undergraduate years.

Education should be affordable for all students no matter their documentation status. Most of these students have spent more than half of their life in this country and would love nothing more than to be able to contribute to the growing economy. Let these students reach their full potential and show us that they too can be our children's educators. I highly urge you to vote yes on SB 859 in order to continue to support our Oregonian tuition equity students.

Thank you for your time and commitment,

Odalis Aguilar Aguilar  
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Policy Associate, Oregon Student Association

## OREGON STUDENT ASSOCIATION

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