

Oregon Student Association



March 20, 2019

To: Senate Committee on Education,
From: Rafaela Tapia
Re: SB 859

Chair Wagner, Vice-Chair Thomsen and Members of the Committee,

My name is Rafaela Tapia. I am a current student at the University of Oregon and am here today to ask you to support Senate Bill 859.

I am a transfer student from East Los Angeles College. Community college was the perfect fit for me because I could not afford to go to a four-year university for four years. I am philosophy major with a specific interest in Latin American Philosophy. There are approximately eight academics in the United States who are experts in this field and two of them are at the University of Oregon, so I knew this was the place for me. My hopes for the future are to peruse graduate school and earn a Ph.D.

As an out-of-state student, I am obligated to pay “non-resident” tuition. Although, I am a U.S. citizen, I struggle to make ends meet and can only imagine the hardships that undocumented students face. Facing many obstacles, undocumented students always try to find a way to succeed. Even if it means taking far less units than their peers. Documented or undocumented, we all want the opportunity to flourish and give back to our communities.

I urge you to support Senate Bill 859 because it would help so many students. I’ve met students who are on the brink of dropping their studies because financial pressures are too much to deal with. Students who aim to thrive and contribute to their communities should not be forced to decide between their education and grocery list. Please vote yes on SB 859 and support the students who wish for nothing more than a good education.

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,
Rafaela Tapia

OREGON STUDENT ASSOCIATION

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