



Oregon's Farmworker Union

March 20, 2019

The Honorable Chair Wagner, Vice Chair Thomsen, and Members of the Senate Education Committee

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Senate Bill 958 and 859.

On behalf of PCUN's 6,543 members, I wish to express our full support for SB 958 which would establish the Dreamers Access Program, a student loan program for tuition equity eligible students, and SB 859 which would amend current tuition equity statute to make sure that graduate students who meet criteria are eligible for in-state tuition.

Since 2003, PCUN has been at the forefront of the fight to pass tuition equity. In 2013, with the incredible work from community and student organizations, as well as legislative champions, we passed Tuition Equity— a great victory for the community we represent.

In our Latino community, we value family and education. For our families, education is core for economic mobility and stability. Oftentimes, the cost of attending college is a burden, especially for our low wage Latinx workers and the children of our farmworkers. By passing Tuition equity in 2013, as a state we made great strides to invest in our students regardless of their documentation status. This year, we have an opportunity to strengthen those laws by passing SB 958 and SB 859. This is an investment in our students and consequently, in our communities and their prosperity.

We believe that SB 859 and SB 958 are both an important step in the right direction and strongly recommend their passage.

Sincerely,
Martha Sonato
Political Director, PCUN