

Oregon Student Association



March 20,2019

To: Ways and Means Sub Education Committee
From: Ana Sally Gonzalez Barragan
RE: Oregon Opportunity Grant Funding

Co-Chairs Senator Fredrick and Representative McClain, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Ana Sally Gonzalez Barragan and I am a second year student at Western Oregon University, and I am here with the Oregon Student Association to urge your support for a meaningful investment in the Oregon Opportunity Grant.

The Oregon Opportunity Grant has been a great help in helping me fund my education. My first year at Western Oregon University I worried about how I could afford to attend higher education with so little opportunities open to DACA students like myself. Without the Oregon Opportunity Grant I would not have had the confidence of being able to attend a community college or a university. My first first week of my freshman year I did not know if I could stay at a university since my largest scholarship did not fall through. Yet, I knew that it would not be the end because even if I could not attend a university, I could at least go back home and be part of a wonderful community college.

Somehow, I did manage to find a way to stay in my school, but I had to take a very large private loan with an almost 12% interest rate. Without the oregon opportunity grant, I would have had to take out a larger loan and a second loan for my sophomore year. There is not a day that goes by that I am thankful for having such an amazing program help my education. I will continue my education and give back to my community as a future educator and I will do so because the Oregon Opportunity Grant was able to help me.

This is why I encourage this committee to support investments in the Oregon Opportunity Grant. Please remember my story when voting on this. Thank you for letting me speak with you today.

Sincerely,

Ana Sally Gonzalez Barragan

Western Oregon University

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OREGON STUDENT ASSOCIATION

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