

March 25th, 2019

House Revenue Committee  
Oregon State Legislature  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Barnhart, Vice Chair Findley, Vice Chair Bentz, Vice Chair Smith Warner and members of the Committee:

I am writing to express my support for House Bill 3133. As a first generation, student of color, college always seemed out of my reach. Growing up in a low income household, I understand the socio economic difficulties of embarking on the journey towards my college degree. Even so, I have always strived to pursue higher education, and my ability to qualify and utilize my IDA account has helped me to be able to attend college with financial stability.

I see the struggle that students face between choosing to pay for food or tuition or even textbooks. Financial instabilities can hit students so hard, that even small unexpected charges can lead students to drop out of college and not finish their degrees. Today this committee and the legislators of Oregon have the opportunity to help create financial stability so marginalized students don't have to make the difficult of choice of prioritizing their basic needs over their textbook and tuition costs.

Now that there is an obligation, moreover, to further support the IDA program through HB 3133. I hope that this committee will take up my belief that everyone needs the financial opportunity to pursue higher education, especially students from historically underrepresented and marginalized groups.

Thank you for support,

Alexander Vasquez

1811 NW Burns Ave  
Grants Pass, OR 97526  
Oregon Resident & Student