



## Oregon Student Association

Dear Cochairs Roblan and Smith Warner and members of the committee,

My name is Carla Gonzalez Pineda and I am a first year at the University of Oregon, studying as a major in Ethnic Studies with a minor in Planning, Public Policy and Management. I want to express my gratitude in the funding for K-12 which are crucial for students be able to graduate and attend higher education. I also want to urge this committee to include the Oregon Opportunity Grant in this revenue package.

The primary focus of my testimony today is how changes in raising tuition costs would have a major impact on my ability to complete my bachelor's degree at the University of Oregon. I myself am dependent on the Oregon Opportunity Grant because as it is, I cannot afford the tuition costs, raising them to a more unreasonable amount poses an immense strain on low income students. As a first-generation student, it has been through hard work and dedication that I have been able to attend a four year university. Rising tuition costs put tremendous pressure on my family and I to be able to afford my education. On top of medical bills, housing and transportation fees, tuition costs put my family at a higher strain and if raised can mean I can no longer pursue a degree that can allow me to gain financial stability. As a daughter of two-hard working Mexican immigrants, raising tuition costs would prevent me from attaining the "better life" my parents sacrificed so much for. I am here today to become the voice of many students who have the dream of getting through college in order to have a better chance in life, to those students whom like me, as young Latinx students would like to not only give back to their families but to their communities that may be poverty stricken.

### **OREGON STUDENT ASSOCIATION**

The Oregon Student Association (OSA) is a statewide, student-led advocacy and organizing non-profit established in 1975 to represent, serve, and protect the collective interests of students in postsecondary education in Oregon

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There are so many students who are Pell Grant Eligible that are not receiving the Oregon Opportunity Grant. In turn this means that low income students will have to take out a greater amount of loans and don't have the ability to pay them off easily. For so many it means that students will suffer from years of debt after graduating hindering them from attaining the financial stability many of us are in search for. Without going to college many low-income students cannot become so easily successful. We've long been told that it is necessary for us to go to college in order to become successful, and in order for that to happen to its imperative that you continue to support and invest in the Oregon Opportunity Grant.

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