



Oregon Student Association

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

My name is Jonathan Batres and I am a first-year criminal justice major at Linn Benton Community College. I am here today thanking you all for your game-changing investments in k-12 funding. I also want to urge you to support education cradle to career in Oregon and we can do that by including an expansion of the Oregon Opportunity Grant to all Pell-eligible students in this package.

I began school at LBCC in the fall of 2018 after graduating from South Albany High School. I chose to go to LBCC because the tuition was affordable in comparison to other schools, and it allowed me to keep living at home with my family. Within my first year, paying for school has been extremely difficult. I come from a low income, single parent family. My mother barely makes 12 dollars an hour, and often struggles to support me and my three sisters. Since financial stability has been an issue for my family, it is up to me to determine how I pay for my tuition and textbooks. This term alone, my scholarships and grants feel \$900 short of what I need to stay enrolled, so I am currently struggling to find a way to stay enrolled. I can't imagine how difficult it would be to continue my education if I did not receive the Oregon Opportunity Grant. As a low income, student of color, the Oregon Opportunity grant makes it possible for me to access higher education.

After I finish at LBCC, I would like to transfer to Western Oregon University since they have a well developed criminal justice program. However, I am not sure I will be able to so this if tuition continues to go up at campuses all across the state. Anticipating the high cost of tuition at WOU, I have decided to take on a summer job as a forest firefighter. I am a little nervous about

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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this job, but I recognize that this is one of my only options if I want to stay in school, especially if that state is unwilling to support students through reinvestment in higher education. Including an expansion of the Oregon Opportunity Grant in the revenue package could add all pell-eligible students to the grant. This could mean 16,000 students in Oregon knowing they have the opportunity to stay in school and continue to pursue their goals of completing higher education. Thanks again for your wonderful investments in k-12, which, as a proud graduate of South Albany High School, I value and fully support. Please show your support for Oregon students by including an expansion of the Oregon Opportunity Grant. Thank you for your time.

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