



Oregon Student Association

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

I'm Samantha Mosley and I'm voicing my support for the revenue package which includes long overdue and critical investments in k-12 education and to ask you all to include funding for the Oregon Opportunity Grant (OOG) and Career and Technical Education (CTE) funding. I go to Lane Community College and I am an Oregon resident and receive pell grant funding for school.

Even with this funding, I still work 2 jobs in order to pay for school and the cost of living. I spend countless hours working to fund an education, which unfortunately takes away from my ability to study. One might ask why this would even be worth it? Well, I'm a non-traditional student and decided to go back to school after working as a teacher's aide for several years. I worked with young students who have developmental disabilities, which would require specific accommodations for them to be successful. It was hard work and institutionally, support was severely lacking. This sparked a passion for me to go back to school so I can help change the systems that fall short of making sure ALL students have a quality education, no matter their race, sexuality, class, or disability. Community college was an important first move for me to make this happen, where I could expand my writing skills, learn how to be engaged in Oregon politics, and find career pathways to further my goals. However, even the "affordable option" has gotten expensive.

Like I stated earlier, even with Pell grant funding, I struggle to make ends meet. College has been getting too expensive, and our institutions have resorted to putting the cost on our backs. With disinvestments towards K-20 education, these budgetary impacts negatively affect my quality of life and education. What we need long term is strategic investments and revenue reform for pre-K through 20 education. The Oregon Opportunity grant is a crucial aspect of supporting students in our state. Even though I qualify, I don't receive the OOG. That could have

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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been the difference between 1 and 2 jobs while in school, leaving me with more time to get the quality education I seek.

Please help us expand the Oregon Opportunity Grant to all Pell-eligible students and help us fund Career and Technical Education programs at community colleges so that students like me who qualify can actually receive these benefits. Thank you.

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