

Members of the Joint Committee on Student Success,

My name is Felicia Dickinson and I am a student at Western Oregon University as well as a cabinet member of the Associated Students of Western Oregon University. I am writing to you today in support of the Student Success Act and the amazing improvements this committee has enabled for k-12 funding. I also think it is time to invest more money into the Oregon Opportunity Grant, as well as funding for Career and Technical Education at community colleges.

As a second generation college student without financial support from her parents, financial aid was the only way I could continue my education. I am also a transfer student, which means that I needed aid for longer than a traditional student. Receiving the Oregon Opportunity Grant has allowed me to go to school and have a part time job that grants flexibility in scheduling so money isn't on my mind vs studying. When we invest in people seeking higher education as a way to better themselves, we are investing in the positive growth of our state.

Our state needs to invest in cradle to career education; education is a lifelong pursuit that fosters advancement for the good of our state and its citizens. Thank you for your time.