

From: [Jarett Gilbert](#)
To: [JCSS Exhibits](#)
Subject: Don't Leave College Students Behind in New Education Funding
Date: Tuesday, April 9, 2019 10:52:27 AM

Dear Chair Roblan, Co-Chair Smith Warner, Co-Vice Chairs Knopp and Smith, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Jarett Gilbert. I am resident of beautiful Hood River, and I have the pleasure of serving Oregonians at Clackamas Community College in my capacity as Associate Dean of Technology, Applied Science and Public Services, and Director of Health Sciences.

Legislators have a once-in-decade opportunity to invest in Oregon students and reform Oregon's tax system, but the current plan leaves college students behind.

By 2020, 65 percent of new jobs are expected to require education and training beyond high school. To provide Oregonians the opportunity they need to thrive and for businesses to help grow the economy, we need to support students from cradle to career.

Since Measure 5, Oregon students have seen tuition increases vastly outpace inflation while programs and services have been cut because state investment fell further behind. Student debt is higher than it's even been.

As someone who is still paying student loan debt back for my liberal arts undergraduate and graduate programs – but who received a great education! – I understand how important completing a college degree can be for someone. In my role at Clackamas Community College, I see how hard our students work and what they sacrifice to overcome their barriers to success through education.

I urge you to support Governor Kate Brown's call for including post-secondary education in the spending proposal before this committee.

Jarett Gilbert
2789 Wheeler Road
Hood River, OR 97031
Jarett_gilbert@yahoo.com
(917) 859-0039