

April 10, 2019

Co-Chair Roblan, Co-Chair Smith Warner, Co-Vice Chair Knopp, Co-Vice Chair Smith and
Members of the Joint Committee on Student Success

Subject: Don't Leave College Students Behind in New Education Funding

Legislators have a once-in-decade opportunity to invest in Oregon students and reform Oregon's tax system, but the current plan laid out in House Bill 2019 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 ever been.

At the age of fifteen I moved from Mexico to this country, and had to fit into a new country, culture, and language. I was born here, but I grew up in Mexico and when I came back I didn't speak English. High school was really difficult for me. There were days where I didn't want to go to the school, because I felt excluded in most of my classes. I ate my tears, my sorrows and I became deaf to the negative words I heard. Learning a new language takes time. I have worked really hard these last couple years to learn English. I graduated high school last year and now I'm attending community college.

Sometimes I have to go to bed very late in order to be able to turn in clean and clear homework the next day. I have used the dictionary and the translator several times. I have learned that I'm a patient person, and I don't give up on what I want to achieve despite the obstacles. My career goal is to attend Portland Community College for two years and after that transfer to a four year university here in Oregon. I want to be an accountant. Community colleges help students like me be successful.

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

Jacqueline Galvez