



Portland Community College
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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.

By the time they found my mom's cancer, it was terminal. I was 22 years old and in school taking my nursing prerequisites as well as working as a CNA. It seemed like everyone fell apart, including my dad. My mom was on hospice at home and needed full time care, so I withdrew from my classes and cut down my hours at work. My dad needed to work to pay for all the medical expenses, and it meant a lot to him that I could be there with my mom. It can be hard sometimes to look back and see all the things you regret, but I don't regret any of this. I pushed my fears aside and was able to be there for the people I loved most.

My mom was the one who inspired me to be a nurse. She was not only the best mother I could ask for, but was also a nurse herself. I plan to finish my Associate's Degree at Portland Community College and go on to get my Bachelors of Nursing through OHSU. Eventually, I want to get my Master's Degree and become a certified nurse midwife. I want to work in the labor and delivery department because when I see a child with their mother, I am a witness to their special connection. It makes me feel so grateful for the time my mom and I had. I would love to be a part of this experience for future mothers, on one of the happiest days of their lives. My mom passed away three years ago, and I would have never been able to work this hard for something if it hadn't been for her.

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

Jaclyn Deeb