

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 even been.

My name is Jia Li, and my educational plan is acquire an associate's degree in radiography. When I was a teenager, I had a problem with my left knee. My parents took me to different hospitals, but many doctors did not know what the problem was. A doctor advised me to do a CT scan in order to diagnose my problem. As a result, I became very interested in medical imaging.

For three years I have been studying at PCC and currently have a 3.94 GPA. My education thus far has improved my understanding of English, and has encouraged me to seek this particular career path.

After becoming a certified radiographer, I will do my best to assist radiologists, and provide patients with the services they need and deserve. I take a lot of pride in working hard, keeping things in order, and understanding what it is that I am doing, whatever it may be. Community colleges help Career Technical Education students like me achieve our goals.

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

Jia Li