From: Kathy Jensen-Dawson
To: JCSS Exhibits
Subject: House Bill 3247
Date: Tuesday, April 16, 2019 6:21:09 PM

April 16, 2019

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

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 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. Funding for vocational programs at the high school level was decimated years ago. Community Colleges fill that gap, and provide an affordable springboard for four year degrees. It is snort sighted to not fully fund these schools. In our district, most college bound students attend community college. Fewer of them can take that crucial step if tuition continues to rise.

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.

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

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