



Co-Chairs Roblan, Smith-Warner and Members of the Committee

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of the Student Success Act today.

My name is Martha Sonato and I am the Political Director of PCUN. PCUN is Oregon's Farmworker Union. PCUN is also a founding member of the Fairshot Coalition.

Our members support the Student Success Act because we have seen the results that focused investments in education can make in the lives of students from the astounding results we've seen in the Woodburn school district. PCUN supports this package because of these focused investments and know our students desperately need the \$2 billion this commercial activity tax will raise for our education system. These investments will, among other things, target dollars to the lowest-income students and schools, and specific programs such as the Latino Student Success Plan and Early Learning Equity Fund.

We also support the Student Success Act because our members are farmworkers and do some of the hardest work but are often paid some of the lowest wages. We cannot ask them to continue to unfairly and disproportionately pay for schools, health care, and other critical services while large corporations tax rates have dramatically decreased over the last few decades.

We are grateful that this committee is moving in a direction that will shift our tax and budget structure away from the historically oppressive model that hurts Latinx and other families of color and low-income families in our state. We appreciate that you have reduced the personal income tax rates for lower income families in this legislation. We are also glad to see that groceries are exempt.

The Student Success Act takes one major step forward towards a more equitable tax and budget structure that asks corporations to pay more of their fair share and helps our students. After years of disinvestment in our schools and our communities we cannot wait any longer and we strongly urge you to vote yes on this legislation today.

Sincerely,

Martha Sonato
Political Director, PCUN