

April 11, 2019

As a student at Southern Oregon University, I understand the important impact and role higher education plays in today's society. This year, 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*.

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.

Student debt has reached over 1.7 trillion in America. As a student leader I put everything into my education, I try to get everything I can from it. I try to be as involved as possible. But I am currently working two jobs, but that barely covers rent & food & school supplies so I have to take out loans. If ~~to~~ And every term I have to weigh the benefits of an education with my growing pile of debt. And without support from Kate Brown, this proposal I do not know if I can justify continuing my education with the steep hike in tuition we are facing if we do not receive this funding.

I urge you to support Governor Kate Brown's call for including post-secondary education in the proposal before the Joint Student Success Committee.

PLEASE support this call to help us achieve higher education & keep it accessible.

Sincerely,

Nani Jarvis, Senator of Gender Equity & Sexual Diversity, within the Associated Students of Southern Oregon University.