

Oregon Student Association



May 6th, 2019

To: House Committee on Education

RE: SB 859, Tuition Equity for Graduate Students

Dear members of the committee,

My name is Juan Navarro and I am a 2nd-year graduate student at Oregon State University, and I am here with the Oregon Student Association to urge your support of SB 859.

I started off my education at Chemeketa Community College then transferred to Western Oregon University to finish my bachelors. I was lucky enough to be admitted to the College Student Services Administration program at Oregon State University, where I am only one term away from that ever so coveted master's degree. One of my many life goals is to education policy for the state of Oregon.

My experience with graduate school is has been challenging, but well worth the investment it took for me to get admitted, a graduate assistantship, and support as one of the microscopic amount of undocumented student graduate students in Oregon. I know that there is a wave of undocumented students that are looking to do their masters and/or professional degrees, but simply have hard time finding the resources needed.

Almost four years ago, I was in this same seat, advocating with testimony for this committee to support Tuition Equity 2.0, I was a junior in college then. I know that Oregon has had a recent history of helping undocumented students and this TE4.0 will be another barrier lifted to those that couldn't attend school otherwise. Many of my friends that share the identity of being undocumented are eager to earn a masters or higher and who are we to deny an opportunity to a group of people that have always took every chance to move ahead in life.

This is why I support Sb859, and encourage this committee to pass it.

Please remember my story when voting on this bill. Thank you for letting me speak with you today.

Sincerely,

Juan Navarro

Oregon State University

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OREGON STUDENT ASSOCIATION

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