

February 10, 2020

Dear Chair Doherty, Vice Chair Alonso Leon, Vice Chair Helt, and Members of the House Education Committee,

We write this letter to express our support for HB 4099 – it's a bill that would provide tuition equity to citizens of nations with Compact of Free Association (COFA) agreements, special immigrant visa holders, and refugees.

Tuition equity helps make higher education more affordable and accessible.

Over the years, we have seen tuition equity in Oregon change the odds and open so many doors for DREAMers and DACA recipients across our state. In our view, further extending the benefits of tuition equity to citizens of nations with Compact of Free Association (COFA) agreements, special immigrant visa holders, and refugees is a no-brainer.

As an organization, we are deeply committed to protecting and supporting our students at the state and federal level so that they can continue to experience success and thrive. Their futures, and ours, are inextricably linked – therefore, we must do all that we can to invest in our students.

Please vote YES on HB 4099. This bill will help keep the momentum moving forward on tuition equity by removing barriers for COFA nation citizens, special immigrant visa holders, and refugees in accessing, and affording, higher education in Oregon.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Parasa Chanramy
Policy & Implementation Director