By addressing this issue, you will be supporting AmeriCorps alumni in more freely using our education awards in the ways that best support our personal and professional growth by removing barriers. The largest barrier being the possibility of getting bumped into a higher tax bracket due to the use of the Ed award. This can be a costly scenario, and for people like me who are close to the next tax bracket, can cause us to decide against using it.

I urge you to strongly consider HB 2737, as it will have a positive impact on not only the people who dedicate a year of their life to supporting our communities, but it will also help with recruiting talented and driven individuals to future AmeriCorps programs throughout Oregon. Thank you for your time and consideration.