

Dear Ways and Means Committee Members,

For the record my name is Yareli Cornejo Torres. I use she, her, her, and Ella pronouns. I live in Hillsboro and am a BUILD EXITO PSU Alumn. I'm here today asking you to fund the Public University Support Fund at \$900 M, the Oregon Opportunity Grant at \$200M and allocate \$1M to the BUILD EXITO program at PSU.

I started my journey with BUILD EXITO as a student at Portland Community College. I have an interest in public health and wanted to learn more about research. BUILD EXITO gave me the space to connect with students who have historically been excluded from the research community. I was able to connect with my BUILD peers, many of whom are transfer students, first generation, and have a passion for biomedical research and creating change within our communities. We were able to create our own research projects, from which I was able to research the barriers and facilitators of health research among spanish speaking Mexican and Mexican-American women. Through this research project I was able to collaborate with the Mexican Consulate in Portland, and have disseminated unidentifiable information to our consulate . My project helped me continue to implement this research through my current job position at OHSU as the Women's Health Research Unit as a recruitment coordinator from which we have begun to create internal changes such as including study and recruitment material in spanish. Funding Public Universities, the Oregon Opportunity Grant, and the BUILD EXITO program will help students like myself continue our career goals and paths.

Thank you for your time and consideration.