

Hello to the Ways and Means Committee,

My name is Marichelle Gurski, and I am studying Liberal Studies as a Dual Enrolled student at OSU- Cascades and Central Oregon Community College.

I am here to ask you to support HB 2590, HB 2835, Oregon Opportunity Grant Fund \$290M, Public University support Fund \$900M, Community College Support fund \$702M.

I have experienced financial barriers due to being a low-income and being the first in my family to go to college. I was only able to consider being able to attend college because of being a recipient of COCC Honors Foundation scholarship and my FAFSA. Even after these forms of financial aid I still have to work different jobs to pay for my book and tuition. It took me a long time to find a mentor to guide me through the college process since no one in my family knew what to do. With underrepresented students on our campus, the main issue I have seen is a lack of resources in terms of access and feeling safe on campus with again lack of cultural awareness in classrooms. Also having to take more time to complete credits in their program versus their peers. Some students who live off-campus have to account for additional costs like transportation. To and from different cities like Remond and Prineville or the reservation. Then in general the housing and food crisis has a huge impact on students from these backgrounds. There are a lot of barriers to students with disabilities in terms of dealing with able-bodied environments. They have extra hurdles to overcome, whether physical, mental, or emotional, that is often overlooked due to lack of perspective

Please remember my story when you vote on these, and please support HB 2590, HB 2835, Oregon Opportunity Grant Fund \$290M, Public University support Fund \$900M, Community College Support fund at \$702M.

Thank you for your time,

Marichelle Gurski