

Dear chairs Rayfield, Johnson, Steiner Hayward, and members of the committee,

For the record my name is Katí Rodriguez Perez (she/they), I currently reside in Eugene, Oregon where I am a student at the University of Oregon. I am here to ask you to fund the Oregon Opportunity Grant at \$290 million, the Community College Fund at \$702 million, and the University Support Fund at \$900 million while also joining us to call for better transparency and accountability from our 4-year universities.

As you might know, higher education has become increasingly expensive as tuition prices are continuing to rise. Naturally, this results in a higher need for students who are not able to attend an institution of higher learning due to the lack of affordability. As a foster youth who does not have family members to financially support me, I rely heavily on aid such as the Oregon Opportunity Grant to afford school. Without this aid, I would not be attending school right now. It is crucial that you support this bill as it will allow for higher education to be more accessible to students of ALL backgrounds and experiences.

I also ask that you support HB 2835, the Basic Needs Navigator Bill, HB 2590, the Student Voice Bill, and lastly HB3007/ Part Time Faculty SB551, to help cover Part Time Faculty Health Care. These bills will allow for the needs of students to be met through making already available support and resources more accessible to students and by having legislators come to public universities and community colleges and see what is needed to make these spaces more equitable for all. These bills are crucial in making higher education more accessible especially students from marginalized communities. Thank you for your time and I hope you will support in creating education more accessible and affordable for ALL students.