

Hello members of the ways and means committee,

My name is Amandalyn Skillman and I am a student at Lane Community College working towards a degree in Business. Today I am asking for you to invest \$290 M in the Oregon Opportunity Grant, the state's largest need based financial aid program.

I qualify for the Oregon Opportunity Grant but do not receive it. The strain on myself and my family of paying for school during this pandemic is immense. I do not receive help from my family. Though I have had to make sacrifices like giving up my car for a period of time to save money for school In order to afford tuition and fees, textbooks, rent, and food I have to work almost full time to pay for all my cost of living expenses, so I have no funds to contribute to my schooling. Its very hard to enroll full time in school. Because I don't receive much aid, its hard to register in enough classes to make progress on my education

Right now, over $\frac{3}{4}$ of Oregon students who qualify for and need the Oregon Opportunity Grant do not receive it, purely due to severe underfunding. If Oregon is going to recover from COVID-19, it is vital that we invest in student aid so that students can afford to finish degrees and find good paying jobs after school. Now is a critical time to get the state where it needs to be regarding financial aid access.

Please remember my story as you work with your colleagues to set the budget for the next biennium, and please invest \$290 M in the Oregon Opportunity Grant. Thank you.