

April 22, 2021

Ways and Means
900 State Street NE, Room H-178,
Salem OR 97301

RE: HB 5555

Chairs Johnson, Steiner Hayward, Rayfield and Members of the Committee,

I joined Oregon State University's College of Business as a professor in 1987, and would go on to serve as dean from 2003 until I retired in 2015. During my nearly three decades at OSU, I witnessed a radical transformation of our campus, with new facilities rising as OSU emerged as a nationally recognized research institution. In recent years I have witnessed another striking transformation, as OSU has prioritized the recruitment and support of students from diverse backgrounds, with significant emphasis on students of color, students from disadvantaged backgrounds and young people who will be the first in their family to attend college. As I reflect on these transformations, I am struck by first hand experience of the generational impact that occurs when a student is the first in their family to earn a college degree, and how this accomplishment will improve the fortunes of their children and their children's children. As we all labor to build a more equitable society, broadening the pathways to higher education is a pivotal element of the undertaking. It is a vital piece of the transformation we seek.

Please consider allocating \$900M for the Public University Support Fund and \$200M for the Oregon Opportunity Grant. These investments will open doors for Oregonians who have done the hard work to excel academically, but because of family circumstances lack the resources to continue their education. Giving these bright minds the opportunity to flourish will benefit all of us.

Please also ensure the needed transformation of Cordley Hall by investing \$86M in bond funding. More than 60% of Corvallis undergraduates take classes or do lab work at Cordley, one of our largest science buildings, and the facility has remained significantly unchanged since it was built in the 1950s. Under my leadership the College of Business moved into a new, purpose-built building, and the impact for our students was enormous. Transforming Cordley into a modern facility will give our students and researchers the tools they need to pursue their groundbreaking work.

Oregon State University is working every day to transform lives and transform our state for the better. Please take this opportunity to provide vital support for these efforts.

Best Regards,

Ilene Kleinsorge, PhD
Dean and Professor Emeritus, Oregon State University College of Business