

Dear Members of the Joint Committee for Ways and Means,

As a supporter of Portland State University and public higher education, I urge you to support current students and future college students by:

Investing \$900 million in the Public University Support Fund. An investment of \$900 Million will help Oregon maintain and improve affordability, improve opportunities for access and improve outcomes for low-income, first-generation, and BIPOC students.

Fund the Oregon Opportunity Grant (OOG) at a minimum of \$200 million. The existing funding covers less than a third of the current need and now more than ever low income students need support to achieve their post secondary education.

Without support from these funds I would not have been able to acquire my education from a university. I am now a psychiatric social worker contributing to Oregon's mentally ill. As a PSU graduate I urge you on behalf of the next generations of students who will shape Oregon's future to pass this bill.

Thank you for your service to the state of Oregon, and thank you for supporting Portland State University.

Sincerely,

Travis Smith