

Good evening Chairs Rayfield, Steiner-Hayward, Johnson, Co-Chairs and members of the Ways and Means Committee,

For the record, my name is Jeanette Chen, and my pronouns are she/her/hers. I am a 3rd-year honors undergraduate student at Oregon State University majoring in human development and family sciences with an option in human services. I grew up in Portland, OR as a first-generation, low-income student, and having experienced systemic injustices in my personal life and observed other communities of color face even worse maltreatment, I aspire to be a policy analyst for under-resourced communities.

I grew up seeing my parents not have sufficient funds to eat while working long hours at a menial job just so that my sister and I could have food on the table, and seeing this, I knew that I had to work 10 times as hard as my peers just so that I could even dream about going to college. I am so lucky that I receive the Pell Grant, Oregon Opportunity Grant, and federal work-study. This is not enough, however, to pay for my college education, and luckily, I was in TRIO, and this program has boundlessly impacted my life because I got the opportunity to apply for a scholarship that would later then help me pay off my tuition, textbooks, and so much more.

As the Oregon TRIO alumni representative for next year, I have both the student and professional perspectives, and I can tell you that many students like me have vouched that they would have never made it to college without the professional development training and skills that TRIO provides. That is why this biennium, we are asking that you support funding the Oregon Opportunity Grant at \$290 million, and the Public University Support Fund at \$900 million to help keep tuition increases at a minimum, and so that programs such as TRIO and other first-generation programs don't face cuts. Thank you for your time.