

Co-Chairs Frederick, McLain, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Bryana Hanks and I live in Portland, Oregon. I am an Oregon Opportunity Grant recipient and a University of Oregon student majoring in general social sciences applied in Business Economics and Society. I respectfully request that you support robust investments in public higher education, including funding the Oregon Opportunity Grant at \$200 million.

Thanks to the Oregon Opportunity Grant, I am able to fulfill my dream of attending college and completing a degree. After college, I hope to contribute to our state's economy in the business field. I wouldn't be on a path to be able to do that if not for the funding provided by this grant.

Funding for Oregon's public universities creates opportunities for all Oregon students, and it is more critical now than ever. My fellow students and I are struggling as a result of the pandemic. We're struggling to afford food, housing, text books, and other basic needs that we have as students, like technology and internet. Even though some students received small federal grants to help offset increased costs as a result of the pandemic, those grants weren't enough, and one-time federal money doesn't address the ongoing financial issues facing today's students.

Oregon ranks near the bottom for student financial aid funding, and it's time to change that. For too long college has been out of reach for our state's most vulnerable students. Everyone deserves to make their own decisions about their future career, but because of the rising costs of college that isn't possible for BIPOC, lower-income, and rural students. I hope you'll restore opportunity by expanding the Oregon Opportunity Grant.

Sincerely,

Bryana Hanks