



**Associated Students of Oregon State University:
President and Vice President**
2251 SW Jefferson Way
Corvallis, OR 97331

February 10, 2021

Dear Chair Dembrow and Members of the Committee,

We are student leaders for the **Associated Students of Oregon State University (ASOSU)** and we are writing today to add our support to SB 564.

Currently, Oregon lacks comprehensive data to indicate the number of college students that are also parents. This lack of data creates a significant barrier to making appropriate determinations about the specific educational needs and outcomes of student parents.

Identifying this key demographic information will allow institutions to best determine the proper allocation of resources that seek to increase access to higher education for student parents and support them in the completion of their degrees.

This legislation addresses a long-standing concern. In 2019, ASOSU sent legislators a resolution in support of SB 794, the equivalent of this legislation during the prior session. **As the association for both graduate and undergraduate students at Oregon State University (Corvallis, eCampus, and others), we are consistently reminded of the balance student parents have to maintain to be successful.**

For the cost of higher education, we owe it to these students to better understand how to adapt policies and procedures to address their needs. It is also important to acknowledge that the Covid-19 pandemic has created even more difficulties for student parents who are now attempting to homeschool themselves and their children as they pursue college degrees.

All students deserve to have the programs they need in order to succeed academically and Senate Bill 564 is the first step towards making this possible.

We believe that requiring public post-secondary institutions to identify whether a student is a parent, acting as a parent, or a guardian is an essential and desperately needed tool in the fight to lower the educational barriers for parenting students and close the achievement gap.

This is why we urge you to **support** SB 564.

Let student parents be counted.

Let them be seen.

Let their stories resonate through this hearing room, because they deserve to be heard.

Thank you to Senator Gelser for championing this bill and to Chair Dembrow for sponsoring it. Thank you to the committee for this opportunity to submit my testimony in support of SB 564,

Isabel Nuñez Pérez
ASOSU President

Metzin Rodriguez
ASOSU Vice President