

Dear Chair Dembrow and Members of the Committee,

My name is Margaret Foley, and I am writing today in support of SB 564.

Currently, Oregon lacks comprehensive data on 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 most effective allocation of higher education resources for student parents and support them in completing their degrees.

This matters to me because I went to grad school as a parent, and it is not always easy to manage teaching, research, learning, and parenting in an academic setting.

In addition, 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, including students who are parents, deserve to have the programs they need to succeed academically, and Senate Bill 564 is the first step towards making this possible.

Thank you,

Margaret Foley