

Chair Evans, Vice Chairs Lewis and Meek, and members of the committee,

My name is Jenna Smith and I am writing to express my concern with HB 2237. I am a recipient of the Oregon Opportunity Grant. Myself and many other grant and scholarship recipients have a lot on our plate just trying to survive. I am a full time student, I typically work during school and have been having a hard time finding work during COVID. If I were to be required to complete hours of training and certifications without compensation and sign up to be on call to do work for the Office of Emergency Management, that would be a burden on me as a student, and one which feels unfair since I am specifically being targeted based on my financial need and vulnerability. I certainly understand and appreciate the importance of emergency preparedness, the great work of the Office of Emergency Management, and the noble and vital nature of the type of public service which this bill seeks to foster. The way this bill goes about that, however, raises strong equity concerns for me. I urge this committee to find new ideas to achieve the goals of this bill without taking advantage of students with the most need.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jenna Smith