

Submitter: Cassie Wilson

On Behalf
Of:

Committee: House Committee On Emergency Management, General
Government, and Veterans

Measure: HB2615

Dear Chair Grayber, Vice Chairs Lewis and Tran, and committee members,

My name is Cassie Wilson and I'm a resident of Boring. I'm writing to ask that you support the expansion of the Oregon Promise program to include discharged veterans.

I was part of the high school graduating class of 2016, the first graduating class to have access to the Oregon Promise. I would not have been able to afford to attend community college without this program. In fact, because I was part of the first class, there was not initially an exception clause for having to drop a term due to medical issues without disqualification, and I almost had to drop out completely until it was resolved in the following short session. Great, eager students are constantly left behind by the prohibitive costs of our higher education system, and it has to end.

I am a proud graduate of Mt. Hood Community College, and because I attended community college first, I am now benefiting from Portland State's Transfers Finish Free program (though I had to wait until I was 24 in 2022 to start at PSU so FAFSA would see me as financially independent so I would qualify for aid).

I deeply believe that college should be free. Expanding the Oregon Promise to as many groups as possible is the right thing to do.

Please join me in supporting this bill.

Thank you.

Cassie Wilson