



Jan 26, 2023

TO: Senate Committee on Education
FR: Charlie Fisher, State Director, Oregon State Public Interest Research Group (OSPIRG)
RE: Support of SB 424

OSPIRG is a statewide, citizen-based organization representing thousands of Oregonians.

OSPIRG supports SB 424, which would protect college students and graduates by prohibiting public and private colleges and universities from refusing to provide transcripts because of debt owed to the institution.

Withholding transcripts due to unpaid debt can have multiple impacts on students and graduates. For current students, doing so can potentially impact their ability to transfer to another institution or even complete their degrees. It can also potentially impact their ability to apply for scholarships needed to continue their education. For graduates, lack of access to transcripts can hamper their ability to gain employment, which only makes it harder to pay back the debt that is owed.

Higher education in Oregon continues to be critical for both individual success and the social and economic health of our state. Making sure students and graduates have access to their transcripts is one small way to ensure as many Oregonians are able to avail themselves of the benefits of higher education.

We urge you to support SB 424.