



Non-Profit Work Study (NPWS) Bill

02/16/2023

Chair Lively, Vice Chair Ruiz, Vice Chair McIntire, and members of the committee,

My name is Nick Keough, and I am the Legislative Director of the Oregon Student Association. **I am writing you all today to ask for your support on HB 2802.**

Oregon Student Association advocates for the collective interests of students in postsecondary institutions in Oregon, and works to make higher education affordable and accessible. As I am sure the members of this committee are aware, higher education in Oregon has an affordability crisis. Tuition, mandatory fees, student housing, textbooks, and other costs associated with college have skyrocketed in prices far above inflation. Meanwhile, wages have remained relatively stagnant, resulting in students, and their families, going into increased debt to afford attending our colleges and universities.

We know how critical our colleges and universities can be when it comes to workforce development and preparing the future leaders of our State. As a small non-profit ourselves, we are all too familiar with the particular struggles that non-profits face when it comes hiring and retaining staff. While there are a multitude of reasons for this, we know that more could be done to support the invaluable work that our non-profits across the State are doing, while simultaneously supporting our students who often struggle to transition from college to a career because they lack practical skills and professional networks.

It is for these reasons that the Oregon Student Association supports HB 2802: the Non-Profit Work Study Bill. Not only do we feel that this bill will help address the problems highlighted above, but we strongly feel that by establishing a state-based work-study pilot, we can begin to help fill some of the gaps that exist within federal work-studies. For instance, the inability for undocumented students to participate in federal work-study opportunities. The Oregon Student Association has a long history of advocating for tuition equity for undocumented students in Oregon, and feel that this is one of the most exciting aspects of HB 2802. Further, we believe the tuition subsidy that will provide students 20% off their tuition for every term they are enrolled in the program is incredibly exciting.

To conclude, we are thrilled to see bi-partisan support behind this bill and the support of Portland State University and Eastern Oregon University. With PSU and EOU being in different geographical areas and having other institutional differences, we believe the results of this pilot will be incredibly insightful. It is time to find creative solutions that address the multitude of problems our students and State face.

The Oregon Student Association urges you to support HB 2802: the Non-Profit Work Study Bill

Thank you,

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