

Chair Lively, Vice Chair Ruiz, Vice Chair McIntire, and members of the House Higher Education Committee,

My name is Angela Noah, and I am here today to speak in support of HB 3565 and the Oregon Tribal Student Grant.

I am a first-generation student at the University of Oregon. I am a member of the White Mountain Apache Tribe from the Fort Apache Indian Reservation in Arizona. I first left the reservation in 2014 to attend an Oregon Native boarding school, Chemawa Indian School. There, I was the first to graduate high school and will be the first to graduate college.

Being the first to navigate higher education has required all the financial and advocacy support on my behalf to get this far. Being in a leadership role with the Native American Student Union, I'd like to emphasize that Native students are needed at the UO and deserve the choice to decide to attend college. When they do decide to go, they are absolutely deserving of cost-free access.

While we represent a community that has been impacted from acts of colonization, we understand the path of education ensures the livelihood and longevity of our nations. I ask you to help equip these academic scholars to ensure their path of success. I have witnessed firsthand the impact of this grant attending the UO, and it is for the people who call this land their home that I am standing with today.

We ask you to protect us. I ask you to give our futures a chance.

Thank you for your time, and we hope that students can count on your support of HB 3565.