

Co-Chair Steiner, Co-Chair Sanchez, and members of the Ways & Means Committee,

My name is Ngoc Do, and I am a sophomore at Portland Community College, beyond being a Portland Community College student, I am a student worker of Student Life & Leadership Civic Leadership Development as a Student Organizer and representative for PCC students at Associated Student of Portland Community College Senator, and I am here today to speak in support of PCC Housing and Transportation issues.

I am technically an international student from Vietnam and I have moved to Portland for 2 years when I started my first term at PCC and America for 4 years. At the beginning of the first year, since I moved into the worst time of the pandemic, things became a lot of struggle for me and everyone who is in PCC to be presented. I came to PCC when I graduated from a US high school and I got a prerequisite for direct transfer to academic study with a major degree. I came by myself without any family relatives or friends in Portland and it took me a long time to adapt to a new environment and how to take part of myself in a different educational system in Oregon.

When I was young, I expected myself to go to college and graduate with a Bachelor's Degree so I am still on my way to demonstrating my college dream. Even though I am not a first-generation college student in my family, I am desiring to develop my ambition and get a job to gain a better life in order to help my family and people in my community. More importantly, the reasons why I want to further my education at PCC before transferring to 4-year college to save tuition fee and get connected from a basic academic program to a intermediate level program.

As I mentioned above, finding housing is really difficult for international students like me if we do not know anyone here to get some support. PCC does not offer any housings or dorms and everyone has to look up ourselves, sometimes PCC will hang up some posters or housing information in the bulletin board but with a small amount of information, it still can not help for a large number of students who are struggling with finding housing and a place to secure students' comfort zones. I was so fortunate to know one of my parent's friend who lives in Portland so he can show me where to find a good room to share. I have lots of friends who usually complain with me about looking for housing that can be more affordable and convenient for them to come from their place to PCC.

Besides that, PCC shuttle system is not fully structured to be convenient for students who do not have their own transportation to school. We have a total of 4 campuses at PCC and campuses in Southeast, Cascade, and Rock Creek are all needed to transit in Sylvannia, some students who want to depart from Southeast or Cascade to Rock Creek, they need to transit the shuttle at Sylvannia to take another shuttle bus. Additionally, due to the small numbers of drivers and shuttle buses, the period from the recent stop to the next stop to be distant about 1 hour or 1 hour and a half, so students do not have chances to take the most convenient shuttle to PCC but have to take the shuttle bus earlier or wait for a long time to catch the next shuttle.

That is everything I want to represent for not only just international students but also all students at PCC. Education is one of the most important responsibilities that everyone needs to be aware of and in order to let students have a better educational experience, I think some supplemental elements also play essential roles to contribute for students' improvement, especially the issues of housing and transportation thing.

Thank you for your time, and we hope that students can count on your support of PCC Housing and Transportation issues.