

Submitter: Brendan Adamczyk
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure: SB5506

My name is Brendan Adamczyk and I live in the Jefferson Westside neighborhood of Eugene. I am a first-year graduate student at the University of Oregon and received my undergraduate degree from UO as well (BS in Environmental Studies, Class of 2020). As you are evaluating Oregon's budgetary priorities this legislative session, I strongly encourage you to support Oregon's students by investing in public higher education and specifically funding the Public University Support Fund (PUSF) at \$1.05 billion and increasing the Oregon Opportunity Grant (OOG) by \$200 million.

Oregon ranks 45th in the country for per-student, state funding of public universities and invests less than half the national average in financial aid per public college student. Our state's students continue to face lasting impacts from the pandemic and we must ensure that higher education is attainable for every student. Moreover, increased investments in public higher education would help support the creation of a highly skilled workforce to support essential industries and address the state's critical workforce shortages.

I am not from Oregon originally, but thanks to the University of Oregon, I now call this state home and intend to spend the majority of my career here working in the public sector. Our public universities are a vital part of our state and our national profile, and I urge you to fund the PUSF and OOG at higher levels. Thank you for your service to the state and for supporting Oregon's public higher education students.