

Joint Committee on Ways and Means
Subcommittee on Education
Testimony on HB 5025 (HECC Budget)
April 18, 2023

Co-Chairs Senator Frederick and Representative McClain and Members of the Committee:

For the record, my name is Jesse Jackson, the Education Program Officer for the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians.

I am here today to support the Tribal Grant Program created last year and included in the Governor's Recommended Budget.

I will follow the example of Ernest Hemingway and make my point in as few words as possible.

Please restore funding to this program.

The Cow Creek Tribe has 20 tribal members enrolled in an Oregon undergraduate or graduate degree program because of these grants.

We have 83 youth tribal members in grades 9-12 across Oregon and 55 in Douglas County alone - all of whom this program will help make access to high education closer to reality.

If this program goes away, so does critical funding to the 20 enrolled in our community colleges or universities now, with no other funding support. They enrolled in school, counting on these grants.

Cutting the funding cuts their ability to continue their education.

I do not need to remind you of the hundreds of years of wrongs endured by the tribal people of Oregon and this country.

This grant program is one step of many toward repairing past wrongs and respecting the sovereign rights of Oregon's first people.

Please restore funding to this critical program. Do your part to help create new paths for the future.