

Submitter: Jon Ambrose

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Education

Measure: HB5025

Joint Committee on Education
Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Please support funding for higher education.

Co-Chairs Frederick, McLain, and Members of the Committee:

I am the Associate Director for Employer Engagement at the University of Oregon's Career Center. As you make budget decisions, I encourage you to support Oregon's students through investments in public higher education, including funding the Public University Support Fund and increasing the Oregon Opportunity Grant.

Each academic year, the University of Oregon's Career Center receives requests from organizations in every sector looking to recruit university-trained talent. We currently have over 12,000 active full-time job postings on our student career platform. We only have between 3,000 – 4,000 graduating seniors each academic year.

Almost every employer we speak to sees the value of diversifying their workforce. They ask us how to better recruit and retain BIPOC hires. Currently, only 30-35% of enrolled students at the University of Oregon identify as ethnic and racial minorities.

Based on the data above, we can extrapolate Oregon is facing workforce shortages. In response, the state can prioritize creating a highly skilled workforce to support essential industries. Oregon's public universities are responding to industry needs despite limited state resources, creating a diverse pipeline of highly skilled workers to power our economy.

By increasing education funding, we can enable more Oregonians, particularly those that have historically faced increased financial barriers, to gain access to schooling and subsequent consideration for fantastic employment opportunities across the state.

Thank you for your service to our state and thank you for supporting Oregon's students and public higher education institutions.

Best,

Jon Ambrose (he/him)
Associate Director for Employer Engagement
University of Oregon | University Career Center