

Submitter: Justin Hoeckle

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Education

Measure: HB5025

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

My name is Justin Hoeckle and I live in West Linn. I am a graduate of Western Oregon University or WOU.

Before I begin - can I just say - it is amazing to hear all of the great Oregon grown stories from higher education here today and I will briefly share my own story.

I am here today not only to share my story but to advocate for your support for Oregon's greatest resource - its people and to invest in that resource through higher education.

I feel my story and so many others you have heard today are proof of the value that higher education funding brings and that every dollar you invest today can generate a significant return to Oregon tomorrow.

Higher education funding for WOU enabled so much for me and for Oregon:

- * I was a first generation college student in my family - I grew up in rural area with a relatively poor blue collar family struggling to survive often having to leverage charity and government support - State level funding of higher education enabled me to obtain access to WOU

- * WOU starting helping me from a young age by providing access in my local community to the arts, advance technical courses in high school and economically in the way of jobs

- * Smaller universities like WOU help support and provide access to those less likely to obtain a 4 year education reaching populations OSU and UofO cannot - the funding from the legislature though is critical for these schools

- * Smaller universities like WOU disproportionately help under represented students in college and enabling access to high education, which creates an opportunity for Oregon to obtain outsized returns from its investments in higher education institutions

- * The support WOU provided me enabled me to attend my graduate work in Cybersecurity at Johns Hopkins University under the National Science Foundation Scholarship for Service

The return you are seeing from the investment in higher education over 25 years ago through myself includes:

- * My wife and I came back to Oregon with our 3 sons after obtaining ours Masters at Johns Hopkins

* We have opened 3 businesses in Oregon including a cybersecurity consultancy that is my primary business today

* My businesses are generating revenues over \$9M and tax dollars for Oregon

* We are generating jobs - employing close to 50 people

* My wife, a teacher, - who I met at WOU - helps the community by giving back each day helping shape Oregon's future

* We both give back through donations and philanthropy that we feel was enabled by our time at WOU

Again, I ask you to please support robust funding initiatives for higher education during this critical time including the Public University Support Fund (PUSF) at \$1.05 billion and increasing the Oregon Opportunity Grant (OOG) by \$200 million.

Thank you for your time, service, and support today.

Sincerely,
Justin Hoeckle