

Submitter: TJ Anderson  
On Behalf Of: Oregon Opportunity Grant  
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means  
Measure: SB5506

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

My name is TJ Anderson, I am a student, and student senator at pcc at and I am here today to speak in support of the Oregon opportunity grant I have rapid onset beriberi and have been fighting for disability for a decade. The reason this is important, is because it gives people like me, those who want to do something when the world has pushed them down, when it is broken their bodies, broken their reserves, broken their support structures, or even their hopes and it gives something to those who try. That is what I needed. Going to college was my plan B. My body broke down and I had to learn another way, because I could not be the person I was. It is allowing me to be something more profitable then when I was a cook, and something where my physical disabilities wont come into play nearly as heavily. This is a chance for me to still do something, and I value it greatly, so please support this funding, so others can get that chance.

A lot of people are worried about what their money is going to help. This is going to be the easiest decision you can make, because this means that people can learn, that people can grow. These funds will go to people who came from places where there is not so much support and it gives them a chance to walk a path they thought they couldn't. I do not need to explain some of the problems hurting the people of our state, and this will not cure all, but it will give people a chance, a chance to build, to take the effort and move forward. It shows that people who have gotten this grant are more apt to get further in their education then those who do not.

Increase the minimum investment and this will be a rarity, something in business that people jump on when they see it. It is something that will provide results, do so easily, and make those who do this be able to put that feather in their cap, because it will be that valuable.

Thank you for your time, and we hope that students can count on your support of Oregon opportunity grant.