

Submitter: Shay Snyder

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB604

Chair Frederick, Vice Chair Weber, and members of the committee,

My name is Shay Snyder, and I am a staff and faculty member at Portland State University. I am writing in support of SB 604: The Strong Start Program at Oregon's Public Universities, which will continue funding for programs that give underrepresented students the support they need to find success as they start their journey in higher education by giving them an early start and providing additional resources to get them off on the right track.

I have had the honor of teaching incoming scholars who take PSU's College Success course as part of the Strong Start grant. I have seen first hand how these extra supports have set students up to be able to navigate complicated systems, improve goal setting and communication skills, and make the most of their university experience.

Higher education is more important now than it has ever been. Colleges are democratizing forces and teach people to become engaged citizens. Oregon needs caring and engaged citizens from all walks of life and the Strong Start grant is a crucial tool in this process. I urge you to continue to fund this grant.

Thank you for your time, and I hope I can count on your support of SB 604, the Strong Start Program!

Shay Snyder