

Submitter: Chloe Meyer  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5006

Dear Co-Chair Kate Lieber, Co-Chair Tawna Sanchez, and members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means,

My name is Chloe Meyer, and I am a student at Portland State University. I am here today to express the urgent need for investing an additional \$150 million in the Oregon Opportunity Grant (OOG) for a total of \$450 million.

The Oregon Opportunity Grant is the state's largest need-based grant program, helping low- and moderate-income students—including DACA recipients—pursue higher education. Increased funding for the OOG directly boosts college enrollment and completion rates by reducing financial barriers that often prevent students from earning their degrees.

As the child of parents who could not afford to pay for my college education, I have had to completely rely on grants and loans to attend school—especially the Oregon Opportunity Grant. Without the financial support this program provides, I know that I, along with countless other students, would not have the opportunity to pursue higher education. This would have a domino effect, negatively impacting Oregon's economy and workforce.

The additional \$150 million investment in the Oregon Opportunity Grant is critical to safeguarding aid for lower-income students and expanding access to middle-income students. At a time when the cost of college continues to rise, we must ensure that all students, regardless of their financial background, have a pathway to higher education. Making this investment is not just about supporting students—it strengthens Oregon's workforce and benefits our communities statewide.

I share my story today as a reminder that funding the Oregon Opportunity Grant directly impacts students like me, as well as Oregon's future economic stability. I urge you to support this essential investment in the upcoming budget.

Thank you for your time and consideration.