

Submitter: Linda Mckim Bell  
On Behalf Of: Portland State University  
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5006

Dear Oregon Representatives,

I am a PSU Alum and volunteer advocate and co chair of the Advisory Council to the Senior Adult Learning Center. I am asking you to feed our future by supporting higher education in Oregon. Even though we have many needs in Oregon, we must not forget to help youth flourish here and build a strong future.

PSU IS AT THE GEORGRAPHICAL CENTER OF A SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY HUB FOR THE WHOLE SATE OF OREGON, and this is vital for our economic health. Donors have just completed the new Vernier Science Center and Tech companies, engineering companies are recruiting our students to build Oregon's future.

PSU HAS UNIQUE NEEDS AS 42% OF OUR STUDENTS ARE LOW INCOME. We need to keep the Basic Needs Hub to ensure that our talented and motivated students can graduate.....80% of our students stay in Oregon to boost the economy. I have visited the Basic Needs Hub many times and the community contributs as well. The PSU community supports this with donations for emergency funds and in kind donations. Our faculty recognizes this vital effort to keep our talented youth in school.

OUR BASIC NEEDS HUB at PSU serves the most students and is strongly supported by donations from the PSU community. I saw a student in my Spanish class lay his head on his desk. The professor asked if he was OK. He said: "I'm hungry!" The prof. took some snacks from his brief case and gave it to the student. I had a volunteer job giving away free snacks in a hallway outside a dean's office and students were eager. This was a way for the dean to identify students in need that could be referred to the Basic Needs Hub. Our professional and beloved social worker at the hub is amazing.

THE OREGON OPPORTUNITY GRANTS are crucial to PSU as we have a high percentage of 42% low income students. I WAS ONCE A LOW INCOME STUDENT AT PSU. Thanks to PSU's help, I became a very productive citizen! Our youth need a chance!

The PUBLIC UNIVERSITY SUPPORT FUND IS money well spent at PSU a vital economic and arts/cultural center for the whole state. The economic future of our

state will be more successful with a thriving PSU and a thriving urban center benefits all in Oregon. 80% of our PSU students stay in Oregon after graduation, the highest number of all the public universities.

Oregon has special needs for BEHAVIORAL HEALTH. PSU is the public university School of Social Work for this state and we are all aware that we need more trained people. Every year the School of Social Work has to TURN AWAY 100 QUALIFIED APPLICANTS every year for lack of capacity to train them.

WE ARE LOSING VALUABLE STUDENTS FOR LACK OF SPACE AT THE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK! A friend of mine's daughter applied to PSU School of Social Work and Columbia University School of Social Work. PSU rejected her and Columbia accepted her! Talented people have nowhere to go in Oregon! We all realize that this is a big need for our state to maintain a decent society.

I remain grateful for your public service and effective outreach event last Saturday at Mt. Hood Community College!

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