

Submitter: MARIO URIBE SALDANA
On Behalf Of: College Possible
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5006

Hello,

My name is Mario Uribe Saldana. I am here to speak in support of House Bill 2997. My direct experience is with College Possible. We all know that navigating college applications, financial aid, and scholarships can be challenging. For many students, especially those who are the first in their family to attend college, it can be downright overwhelming. That's where College Possible comes in.

College Possible is an incredible organization that has made a real difference in the lives of my students. They invest their time and resources, traveling all the way from Portland to Eastern Oregon to provide direct support. They stay connected with students through email and video chats, offering guidance and encouragement every step of the way.

And the results speak for themselves. One of my students, who recently graduated, told me she wouldn't have been able to attend college without College Possible's help with applications, scholarships, and grants. Now, she's thriving in college, and College Possible continues to support her. Another student is doing so well at Oregon State University that she's become a Resident Advisor! Her younger brother, also a member of College Possible, is attending college as a freshman. Their youngest twin siblings are current high school sophomores and part of College Possible. They will all be first generation college students.

College Possible doesn't just help students get into college; they empower them to succeed. They give them the tools and confidence to overcome challenges and achieve their dreams. I'm so grateful for their partnership and the impact they've had on my students' lives. I get to see it first hand as they are always happy to see Phil and his College Possible team visit McLoughlin High School.

Thank you very much and Support House Bill 2997.