

Submitter: Arturo Garcia
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5006
Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to share my story and express my strong support for two critical investments: increasing funding for the Public University Support Fund (PUSF) and preserving access to the Oregon Opportunity Grant (OOG).

Like so many immigrants, I came to Oregon with a dream, seeking a better life for my wife and our three children. I arrived here legally, full of hope, but quickly realized that not having a U.S. degree came with significant barriers. I had the skills, but without the credentials, opportunities were limited. I knew that if I wanted to change our future, higher education was the path forward.

Getting into one of the top computer science programs was a turning point. It was incredibly hard to secure the financial resources, but I was fortunate. A higher education institution believed in my potential and supported me when I needed it most. That support didn't just help me earn a degree, it transformed the entire trajectory of our lives. Today, I serve as a Chief Information Officer, and my children now see what's possible when opportunity is met with real support.

As a Latino family, we faced language and cultural challenges, but we chose Oregon for its diversity and its promise of opportunity. That promise only becomes reality when it's backed by investment.

That's why I urge you to prioritize these two initiatives. They open doors for families like mine and create impact that stretches across generations.

Thank you for your time, your service, and for supporting a future where every Oregonian, no matter their background, has the chance to succeed.

Warmly,
Arturo Garcia