

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

Good Afternoon my name is Walter Corthell, I'm the President for the Student Veterans Program at the Oregon Tech Klamath Falls Campus. Fortunately, due to my service, the government pays for my education and I'm able to afford my education, I cannot say the same for my peers. Since my time of starting my educational journey of pursuing a Master's of Science in Renewable Energy Engineering, I've come to know 10+ students who have had to pause or completely drop their own education journey due to the rising costs of living and education. These are just my personal experiences, there are hundreds more throughout the state who face the same outcome. More needs to be done to invest in the professional education of those in Klamath County, especially for those pursuing STEM who can address the growing technical needs that OR will face. I am asking that the committee supports funding \$450 Million for the Oregon Opportunity Grant and provide \$1.275 Billion for the Public University Support Fund. Additionally I would highly suggest you support House Bills 3182 and 3183 to provide basic needs support to Oregon students and more opportunities for open educational resources respectively. As an advocate for veterans and their families I also suggest supporting SB 668 and HB 2441, both of which assist the dependents of veterans and greatly help them with attaining higher education. Thank you for your consideration.