

Dear Chair Hudson, Vice-Chair McIntire, Vice-Chair Dobson and members of the Committee,

My name is Amaya Peralta. I am a junior at the University of Oregon studying sociology and political science. I am writing today to express my support of HB 4124. Although I believe that the Oregon Public Institutions all serve different purposes amongst their diverse student populations, a study such as this one could improve affordability and access to higher education. As a first generation student, I understand the many barriers that make higher education inaccessible. I think this comprehensive study is a good step into reforming longstanding concerns within higher education.

I also support this study as a means to address the lack of financial transparency that we are seeing at Oregon institutions. At the UO, there were budget cuts made over the summer that cut programs, faculty, and student workers. These decisions were made behind closed doors by administration and the Board of Trustees without any input from the campus community and the people who were most impacted by these cuts. I believe it is crucial for a study to be done by the HECC to provide checks and balances for institutions and university leaders.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Amaya Peralta  
University of Oregon student