

**From:** Rosemary Cooper [mailto:rosiecoop13@yahoo.com]

**Sent:** Thursday, February 07, 2013 3:37 PM

**To:** Rep Huffman

**Subject:** HB 2787

I am so opposed to allowing Illegals anything. What part about illegal do people not understand? When are they going to stop the madness?

For crying out loud!! Reagan gave how many illegals citizenship back in the 90's and now we are going to do it AGAIN!!? Give me a break! Politicians wonder why we are so broke! If we would stop handing out money to all the lazy people out there that don't want to get a job and giving illegals welfare, housing, medical, etc. etc, we wouldn't be so broke!

Secure the borders! Hispanics have now outnumbered white people in California and will soon outnumber us in all states!

**STOP THE MADNESS NOW!! Vote against this bill or don't vote at all!!**

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Rosemary,

In past sessions, much misinformation has been emailed around about the bill known as tuition equity. Going into this session I decided I was going to get involved in the bill so I could have a voice in, and help control what it allows, and also to try to keep conversations on a factual level. Though the students covered under HB 2787 are unarguably illegal aliens, they are also student aged young adults that were brought here as children or youth. Children that we have educated. Right or wrong, we have invested resources in their education.

Also, no part of me believes that our federal government will deport eleven plus million people that came to the U.S., did not leave as they were legally required to do, and continue to reside here illegally. I agree with Senator Marco Rubio that the U.S. must seal our borders and prevent further illegal immigration. Then, implement a plan that provides for a penalty, and then a path to citizenship. And, a robust guest worker program that allows temporary workers to come on a seasonal basis and then go back home. If I am correct that these students will eventually become American citizens, based on future federal laws, then I believe it makes sense to allow Oregon high school graduates to attend college for the in-state tuition rate at their own expense.

I understand that there are strong, and sometimes justifiable feelings and reasons on both sides of any and all issues surrounding illegal aliens that reside in Oregon. I know tuition equity is one of those issues, and explaining why I chose to chief sponsor HB 2787 will not change your mind, therefore, I won't try. However, I do want to spell out what the tuition equity bill does, and what it does not do.

**What HB 2787 (Tuition Equity Bill) does not do:**

HB 2787 does not provide free college for undocumented Oregon students.

HB 2787 does not provide access to any financial assistance. No Oregon Opportunity Grant or any federal grants or student loans.

HB 2787 does not take a slot away from an Oregon student that is a U.S. citizen, according to conversations with Oregon colleges and universities.

HB 2787 will not cost Oregon colleges and universities millions of dollars in lost revenue, according to conversations with Oregon colleges and universities. In fact, they will receive in-state tuition from students that are filling slots that were otherwise unfilled.

HB 2787 will not send thousands of undocumented Oregon students to Oregon colleges and universities, overwhelming our higher education system. Eastern Oregon University has 9 undocumented Oregon students that are attending the university on a cash basis paying in-state tuition. Oregon Community Colleges and Eastern Oregon University have always charged in-state tuition. The EOU students are on a cash basis because as I mentioned they do not qualify for any form of student assistance.

**What HB 2787 (Tuition Equity Bill) does do:**

HB 2787 requires that an undocumented student must have been in the U.S. at least five years.

HB 2787 requires that the undocumented student must have attended an Oregon high school for at least three years, and graduated from an Oregon high school.

HB 2787 requires the undocumented Oregon graduate to apply for admission to the Oregon college or university within three years of graduation from the Oregon high school.

HB 2787 requires that the undocumented Oregon student that chooses to pursue higher education in Oregon must apply for admission and be accepted for admission to the Oregon college or university.

HB 2787 requires that the Oregon student file an affidavit with the Oregon college or university that they have filed for legal residency, or will file for legal residency as soon as they are eligible.

Additionally, I am pursuing two amendments to the current bill. One would stipulate that if an Oregon high school graduate has been out of Oregon serving honorably in the U.S. Armed Forces, upon return to Oregon, they could receive in-state tuition after meeting any appropriate conditions outlined above without reestablishment of residency. The other amendment would stipulate that qualifying students would have to have entered the U.S. no later than the date of this bill.

So, the bottom line is, a hard-working, ambitious undocumented Oregon student with a strong GPA, that was brought here as a child or youth, will be able to apply for admission to an Oregon college or university and pay cash for the in-state tuition rate. If they graduate from college and are unable to legally get work then it was their choice to pay for an education and pursue their dream.

If after this thorough explanation of HB 2787 you still disagree with the entire premise, I understand. As congress works on meaningful immigration reform I felt it was the wise thing to do to allow talented Oregon graduates the ability to improve themselves, wherever it leads them, at their expense.

Respectfully,

Rep. John Huffman

House Dist. 59