

Re: HB 2787 - Tuition Equity Bill

Dear Representatives:

Having read this latest version of the above-noted House Bill, I have serious concerns. I must first state that I take offense to the use of "undocumented" in reference to illegal aliens once thought to be a fair definition. *Alien* has been used to refer to those not born or naturalized citizens. This is a "politically correct" creation of unions seeking to enlarge their membership roles and increasing their coffers; and some politicians who are soliciting future votes.

I am neither a paying member of a union nor a politician seeking liberal voters. I am an American-born believer in the principles of the U. S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights. Some of my ancestors were immigrants who came here legally, and some were native citizens who had to fight to be given the rights of citizenry and voting privileges.

Having said this, I support legal immigration for those who want to become America citizens and go through the proper requirements to become responsible American citizens. They are proud to become a part of this generous nation. My concerns are as follows:

Why is this bill to be considered an emergency? Why is this bill not effective 2014-2015?

Why is this bill not being put before "the people" to vote instead of being passed by the Legislature?

Section 2. (1) (a) Why would a student who did not receive a high school diploma be eligible? And why would a student who did not receive a high school diploma but attended elementary school be eligible? I see nothing this proposed bill to indicate that these students must be talented students; have a strong GPA; or require at least a 2.8 average.

Section 2. (1)(b) Why should a student "...in any state or territory of the United States, the District of Columbia or the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico..." who was never a resident of Oregon receive the right to *in-state tuition status*? Is that not "financial assistance?" Is this "access to financial assistance such as Oregon Opportunity Grant or any federal grants or student loan?"

(ORS 32.653(b) Provides that only students who reside in counties that share a common border with this state may participate in any program developed pursuant to such an agreement.)

Section 2. (1)(d) Who is responsible for verification or enforcement of the proof of student's "intention to become a citizen or a lawful permanent resident of the United States? There is no provision for this in this bill. And will this verification of student's application be required, in writing, as a requirement for a diploma or certificate of completion?

Section 2. (2) (b) and (d) Same concerns above with regard to elementary school, not qualifying for a high school diploma and non-resident illegal. Also the verification of student's vow to apply for citizenship, etc.

Section 3. (2)(4) This is not right! It is unfair to legal citizens and their issues before the Court. Supreme Court reviews are costly to American (Oregonians). Delays incur expenses such as legal fees, and delays are detrimental to legal Oregonians well-being.

In summary, there are too many loopholes and discrepancies in HB 2787 to be considered in its present form and I ask that you support not going forward.

Respectfully submitted

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