



THE OREGON STUDENT ASSOCIATION

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TO: House Higher Education and Workforce Development Committee
FROM: Ramon Fukuichi
SUBJECT: HB 4141
DATE: February 6th, 2017

Chair Reardon and Members of the Committee:

My name is Ramon Fukuichi. I am a second year student at Eastern Oregon University, and I am here with the Oregon Student Association to urge your support of House Bill 4141,

HB 4141 addresses the discrepancies that many students faced last summer in regard to tuition increases:

Institutional Reform

- Institutions must establish a Tuition Advisory Council to their governing boards.
- Institutions must explore multiple revenue options and present them to the TAC.
- Institution must submit a report to the HECC outlining their process for tuition increase proposals above 3%.

Statewide Reform

- Institutions must follow a set of criteria when requesting 5%+ tuition increases.
- The HECC will rely upon the Governor's recommended criteria, in addition to anything the commission requires of institutions.
- Any 5%+ tuition proposal will be rejected if criteria is not met.

I came to EOU because it is one of the universities in the US that is aware of the Compact of Free Association and it had low cost of attendance. I currently owe \$45,000 in loans and IF I graduate in a year that would increase to over \$60,000. Tuition increased last year and I, along with many others were not aware of that. It only came to my attention when our student trustee mentioned it.

I have become heavily involved as a student leader on campus and as one of the few student leaders on campus I now see the importance of equity and transparency within an institution. HB 4141 will cement tuition equity and transparency into universities and give students the platform to raise their concerns about tuition increases so that our voices can be heard and taken into consideration by the governing boards.

This is why I support HB 4141, and encourage this committee to pass it.

Please remember my story when voting on this bill. Thank you for letting me speak with you today.
Sincerely,

Ramon Fukuichi
Eastern Oregon University
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