



PRESS RELEASE

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HOUSE DISTRICT 47

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Tuition Transparency and Accountability Legislation Takes Center Stage

Bipartisan group of lawmakers seeks to increase access and equity

SALEM – As tuition increases squeeze working families in Oregon, a bill from Rep. Diego Hernandez (D-Portland) and a bipartisan group of legislators would work to increase transparency in the tuition-setting process and provide students a voice in that process.

[House Bill 4141](#), the Student Voice & Transparency Act, would require universities to establish a tuition advisory council and requires the Higher Education Coordinating Commission to follow clearly outlined criteria in order to approve tuition increases above five percent.

“This legislation represents an important step in ensuring Oregonians have a voice and better understand why these hikes are happening,” Rep. Hernandez said. “For an ever-increasing number of students, college is out of reach. That is unacceptable. We owe it to every student to ensure that college is affordable.”

The tuition advisory council would consist of at least: two faculty members; two administration members; two students from the recognized student government; two students from historically underserved communities in the institution; and one ex-officio member from the governing board.

Rep. Teresa Alonso Leon (D-Woodburn), Rep. Janelle Bynum (D-Happy Valley), Rep. Dallas Heard (R-Myrtle Creek), Sen. Michael Dembrow (D-Portland), Sen. Arnie Roblan (D-Coos Bay), and Sen. Kim Thatcher (R-Keizer) join Rep. Hernandez as the chief sponsors of the legislation.

“Students are direct stakeholders in the process and deserve a voice in what is happening with college tuition increases,” Rep. Bynum said. “I am committed to fighting for every student in Oregon so they not only have access to a quality education, but an affordable education.”

The legislation, will receive a public hearing today in the House Committee on Higher Education and Workforce Development at 3 p.m. today.

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