



PRESS RELEASE

OREGON HOUSE DEMOCRATS

For Immediate Release
May 29, 2019

For More Information, Contact:
Aaron Fiedler: 503-986-1904
aaron.fiedler@oregonlegislature.gov

Tuition Equity Expanded for All Oregon Students

Ensures undocumented students receive graduate program tuition equity

SALEM – All students educated in Oregon, regardless of immigration status, would receive access to in-state tuition for graduate programs at public universities under legislation passed by the Oregon House of Representatives tonight.

[Senate Bill 859](#), which passed 52 to 6, ensures students who qualify for tuition equity in undergraduate programs in Oregon’s public universities are also eligible for in-state tuition in graduate programs.

“This legislation is about strengthening our existing tuition equity law,” said chief sponsor Rep. Diego Hernandez (D-Portland). “Ultimately, every one of Oregon’s students deserves equal access to our public universities, and with this bill, we can ensure that that includes every university program.”

In 2013, the Oregon Legislature passed House Bill 2787, granting in-state tuition at public universities for undocumented students who demonstrate the intent to become United States citizens and who meet certain attendance requirements in Oregon schools. Currently, according to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission, 250 undergraduate students qualify for tuition equity.

Sen. Michael Dembrow (D-Portland) is the co-chief sponsor of the legislation. A bicameral group of 25 legislative Democrats signed on as sponsors.

Senate Bill 859 now goes to Gov. Kate Brown.

###