Budget Oral Testimony Template – Option 1

*Note: Please keep testimonies to under 2 minutes long.*

Co-Chair Frederick, Co-Chair McLain, members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today regarding the Community College Support Fund. For the record, my name is [YOUR NAME], and I am a member of the [YOUR COLLEGE] Community College Board of Directors/Trustees.

As we all know, community colleges play a vital role in educating and training students to meet the demands of the 21st-century workforce. However, community colleges in Oregon are facing significant challenges due to rising costs. [BRIEFLY INSERT DETAILS ABOUT YOUR COLLEGE’S CHALLENGES HERE]

In order to maintain the quality of education and services offered to our students, we are urging the legislature to provide $855 million in ongoing funding and $50 million in one-time funding for the 2023-2025 biennium. This increase in funding is necessary to ensure that community colleges can continue to provide high-quality education and training that meets the needs of our diverse student population.

The one-time funding will help colleges transition away from COVID-19 federal relief funds and move towards an equity and outcome-based distribution model. This transition will require significant investment to ensure that all students, regardless of their background, have access to the resources and support they need to succeed.

The ongoing funding will help community colleges maintain core services and programs that are essential to student success, such as academic advising, tutoring, and wraparound services to meet students’ basic needs. It will also allow colleges to address rising costs, such as the cost of providing career and technical education programs that meet local industry workforce needs.

Investing in community colleges is an investment in Oregon's future. Community colleges are critical to ensuring that our workforce is prepared to meet the challenges of a rapidly changing economy. Without adequate funding, community colleges will be forced to cut essential programs and services, which will have a negative impact on the economic and social well-being of our communities, not to mention the success of our students.

In conclusion, I urge the legislature to provide $855 million in ongoing funding and $50 million in one-time funding for community colleges in Oregon. By doing so, we will ensure that our community colleges can continue to provide high-quality education and training that meets the needs of our students and prepares them for success in the workforce. Thank you for your time.