Budget Oral Testimony Template – Option 5

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

Good morning, Co-chairs Frederick and McLain, and members of the committee. My name is [YOUR NAME], and I am a proud member of the [YOUR COLLEGE] Board of Directors. Today, I am here to urge you to support funding Oregon community colleges at $855 million in ongoing funding and $50 million in one-time funding for the 2023-2025 biennium.

As a board member, I have seen first-hand the critical role that community colleges play in the health, growth, and sustainability of our workforce. We are the backbone of our local economies, providing educational training and skills that are needed in our local industries. Our colleges offer a wide range of programs, from [INSERT CTE PROGRAMS YOUR COLLEGE OFFERS]. These programs are designed to meet the needs of our local communities and provide our students with the skills they need to succeed in the workforce.

However, in recent years, community colleges in Oregon have faced significant funding challenges thanks to the pandemic and subsequent enrollment decline. [GIVE EXAMPLES OF CHALLENGES YOUR COLLEGE HAS FACED.] Despite our critical role in the state's economy, we face a decline in state funding, which may force us to cut programs, reduce staff, and increase tuition. This will have a profound impact on our students, who are often low-income and first-generation college students, as well as on our local communities, who rely on our colleges to provide a skilled workforce.

[GIVE EXAMPLE OF A PROGRAM THAT HAS IMPACTED A LOCAL INDUSTRY]

That is why I am here today to urge you to support funding the Community College Support Fund at $855 million in ongoing funding and $50 million in one-time funding for the 2023-2025 biennium. This funding will allow us to maintain our programs and wraparound services and provide our students with the resources they need to succeed. It will also allow us to continue to be a vital part of our local economies, providing the skilled workforce that is needed to grow and sustain our communities.

In conclusion, I urge you to support the funding of Oregon community colleges at $855 million in ongoing funding and $50 million in one-time funding for the 2023-2025 biennium. Thank you for your time and consideration.