Budget Student Testimony Template – Option 1

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

Good morning, Chairs Frederick and McLain and members of the committee. My name is [NAME], and I am a proud student of [COMMUNITY COLLEGE NAME] in [CITY]. Today, I am here to urge you to increase funding for the Community College Support Fund.

Community colleges like [COMMUNITY COLLEGE NAME] are the affordable option for access to higher education in Oregon. They serve students at all education and skill levels, including educating students with the greatest barriers to attaining post-secondary education and training – students like me. The support and opportunities provided by community colleges like [COMMUNITY COLLEGE NAME] are essential to students' success in achieving their academic and career goals.

[TALK ABOUT HOW YOUR COLLEGE HAS SUPPORTED YOUR EDUCATIONAL GOALS]

Wraparound services are becoming an essential safety net for vulnerable students. These services provide support beyond the classroom, such as academic advising, counseling, and financial assistance. Many students, like myself, rely on these services to overcome barriers to their success, such as financial hardship, food insecurity, and mental health challenges.

Community colleges serve more systemically marginalized students than any other sector of higher education. These students may come from low-income households, be the first in their families to attend college, or face other barriers to access and success. Without the resources and support provided by community colleges, these students would face significant challenges in attaining post-secondary education and training.

In conclusion, I urge you to increase funding for the Community College Support Fund. Doing so will provide critical support to community colleges like [COMMUNITY COLLEGE NAME] and ensure that students like me can access the education and training necessary to achieve our goals and contribute to our communities. Thank you for your time and consideration.