

Oregon decides who gets instate tuition based off the residency one's parents. If you've grown up in Oregon your whole life and even graduated from an Oregon high school, you'll still get billed for out-of-state tuition if your parents aren't Oregon residents. I can think of one particular controversial situation this can be related to: children of undocumented immigrants, who are overwhelmingly racial minorities.

Let's put the controversy and emotions aside so we can look at the situation practically. Oregon needs to address the needs of its diverse population. These Oregonians, who we've educated in our K-12 system, are now being priced out of a college education. Do we really want to hold back Oregon's potential by denying them an affordable education? Statistics show that people who receive a college degree contribute more to taxes and are less likely to use social services such as welfare.

I want Oregon to be a place of equal opportunity, which is why I support the Tuition Equity legislation. This bill extends instate tuition to all students who work towards residency and graduate from an Oregon high school. Tuition Equity does exactly what it says: it makes college tuition more equal for *all* Oregonians.

Drew Brammer