## 75th OREGON LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY - 2009 Regular Session STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY Senate Committee on Education and General Government

**MEASURE: CARRIER:** 

**HJM 15 A** Sen. Bates

KEVENUE. NO revenue impact	
FISCAL: No fiscal impact	
Action:	Do Adopt the A-Engrossed Measure
Vote:	4 - 0 - 1
Yeas:	Kruse, Metsger, Morse, Hass
Nays:	0
Exc.:	Bonamici
Prepared By:	Dana Richardson, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	5/20

## **REVENUE:** No revenue impact

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Urges Congress to pass legislation and appropriate funds for free post-secondary education.

## **ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Frequency of memorials to Congress ٠
- Greater percentage of older Oregonians than younger Oregonians with post-secondary credentials ٠

## EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:** The United States ranks 10<sup>th</sup> among industrialized nations in the percentage of persons between the ages of 25 and 34 with an associate degree or higher. The average American student graduates with a debt load of \$17,000 from student loans. Thirty-nine percent of American students graduate with debt loads that require more than eight percent of their monthly income in repayments.

The Memorial declares the importance of individuals having access to a post-secondary education. It urges Congress to pass legislation appropriating funds for a free, post-secondary education for every academically-qualified United States' citizen.