



Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, MD, Governor

Oregon Student Access Commission

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MEASURE: HB 4056

EXHIBIT: 5

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SUBMITTED BY: JOSETTE GREEN

Testimony for Information Hearing on House Bill 4056 Josette Green, February 1, 2012

As Executive Director for the Oregon Student Access Commission, I would like to present the following written testimony on HB 4056. I will not be able to attend the hearing.

The primary purpose of HB 4056 is to establish a Task Force on STEM Access and Success for the purpose of encouraging students to study science, technology, engineering and mathematics. In support of that primary effort, the bill also creates a STEM Fund for providing scholarships administered by the Oregon Student Access Commission (OSAC) to encourage students to study science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

OSAC administers more than 400 scholarships to more than 6,000 students each biennium. The scholarships have various criteria, and we have simplified the application process by creating one electronic application for all 400+ scholarships. OSAC will be able to competently administer the STEM scholarship as outlined in the bill. In addition, OSAC requests that the bill be amended to include OSAC recovering the usual and customary fee for administering the scholarship fund – an administrative fee that we charge to our 400+ donors currently. We suggest it be placed in Section 3 paragraph (3) with the following wording: *The Oregon Student Access Commission is authorized to assess its usual and customary fee for administering scholarships through the STEM Fund.*

OSAC works closely with Oregon middle and high schools and students primarily through our ASPIRE program. The purpose of HB 4056 is to create a task force to move forward the STEM agenda. OSAC would add value in contributing the voice of our students and schools, along with providing a vehicle to inform and encourage these entities concerning STEM. Moreover, OSAC's representation on the STEM Task Force would help streamline the newly created scholarship. We look forward to being a contributing member of the task force.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony about this bill. With the above mentioned amendment, OSAC looks forward to contributing to a bill that benefits our students and our economy. I am available by phone or email to answer any questions.

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