



### **OSA 2012 Testimony on HB 4061**

Hello Co-chair Dembrow and Co-chair Johnson and members of the committee. My name is Chris Heidbrink and I am the Student Body President at Eastern Oregon University and a board member for the Oregon Student Association. Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today.

I of course echo the concerns that Tiffany shared with you about the proposed amendments to HB 4061. I want to take a minute to explain why students from regional campuses should be concerned with these proposed amendments.

First, what research lead the this committee in such a drastically different direction from discussing the various options of university governance, including local boards, to deciding they were best for Oregon? If these amendments are adopted, I don't see the research or the opportunity for stakeholders to weigh-in the that the original legislative concept would have afforded. We need to put function before form, as the Governor's office says. We need to address how the OEIB, the HECC, and any other governance options will reduce and control competition between institutions. What if competition in this building for bonds and funding wasn't controlled or at least monitored by a solid statewide system of universities? What will happen to our regional campuses?

These questions have not been fully vetted and that is why we supported Legislative Concept 288. Local boards are not and should not be a foregone conclusion. The Oregon Student Association has been opposed to all individual campus proposals for local boards to this point. Our position matters as the stakeholders who cover more than 50% of the cost to run our campuses.

Furthermore we have questions about tuition setting authority. We want to know about articulation agreements. We want to know when the authority of the HECC and the OEIB will be clarified. We want to see all of these new additions get worked out before we add a new governance structure that might harm regional campuses. There are a lot of questions to be answered.

Please do not accept these amendments. Please do not draw conclusions before you test a hypothesis or do the research.

Thank you.