



OREGON STATE SENATE

**COMMITTEES:**  
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SUBMITTED BY: Sen. Mark Hass

**Senator Mark Hass Testimony in Support of -3 Amendments to Senate Bill 1563**

Chair Boquist and members of the committee, for the record, my name is Mark Hass and I am here today to testify in support of the -3 and -4 amendments to Senate Bill 1563. These amendments relate to community college tuition waivers for dependents of deceased veterans.

As you are all aware, last session we passed SB 338. The original intent of this bill was to require community colleges to waive the tuition for dependents of deceased veterans the same way universities do. However, community colleges claimed that they were already following this principle and did not need to be legislated in order to provide this benefit. In response, SB 338 was amended so that it created a Task Force that looked at whether or not community colleges were already following this practice.

On February 1, 2012 this task force released its report. It was clear from the report that community colleges were relying on the federal government to compensate for them and not providing the first-payer tuition waivers that we hoped they would. These amendments before you today are intended to fix this and hold community colleges to the same standards as Oregon's universities.

The -3s require community colleges to waive tuition for dependents of veterans the same way that universities do, but for a smaller number of eligible recipients (community colleges would only waive for dependents of deceased veterans; universities may also waive for dependents of disabled veterans).

The -4 is a stand-alone applicability provision for the underlying bill. While preparing the above amendment, the drafter noticed the absence of such provision from the original measure and recommended its inclusion.

Though these amendments will only impact a small number of individuals, they are the right thing to do. Thank you for your consideration. I welcome any questions you may have.