



**Oregon House of Representatives
Higher Education and Workforce Development Committee
Monday, March 25, 2013
HB 3079 – Relating to Higher Education – In Opposition**

Chair Dembrow and members of the committee:

The University of Phoenix (UOPX) would like to thank you for your interest in creating a set of reporting requirements that make relevant and meaningful information easily available to students of Oregon's post-secondary institutions, and for inviting the University of Phoenix to the workgroup regarding HB 3079 and other reporting bills that this committee has previously heard. We are hopeful that we can address our concerns in the working group; however, we must respectfully oppose HB 3079 as introduced.

While we fully support the effort to increase transparency for students, we are concerned about section (7) which would determine whether an institution is eligible to operate in the state based off its Cohort Default Rate (CDR). Traditionally, an institution's default rate has been tied to eligibility to receive government funding, but never before has an institution's ability to operate been linked to its CDR. We would like to see the punitive language in the bill removed, and to focus on ensuring that meaningful, useful, and easily accessible information is provided to students. To that end, UPOX believes that all institutions that operate in Oregon should be subject to the requirements in HB 3079.

Additionally, while Oregon specific data is useful and should be provided when possible, and feasible, there are instances where it is not available. For instance, UOPX's CDR is an institution-wide number which is provided to us by the US Department of Education (USDOE). Since UOPX does not calculate this data it would not be possible or feasible to provide a number different than what was provided by USDOE. We would recommend allowing some flexibility in whether state-specific or institution-wide information is reported, and require that it be clearly labeled as to whether it is Oregon, national, institutional or otherwise.

Our final suggestion is that language should be added to the bill to require consistency with federal regulations. Additional federal regulations in this area are forthcoming, and to ensure ongoing consistency as federal regulations change, it would be helpful to have statutory guidance for the rulemaking process that reporting requirements should align with federal regulation when possible.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this measure. If you should have any questions please don't hesitate to contact Joe Gregorich, Associate Vice President of State Government Affairs at 916-228-4495 or joseph.gregorich@apollogrp.edu.