



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

3/27

Chair Gelser, Co-Chair Sprenger, Members of the House Education Committee:

For the record I am Jeff Reardon, Representative of House District 48, SE Portland and Happy Valley.

HB 2985 is a critical part of the effort this committee is making this session to extend the depth of education opportunities available to all the students of Oregon.

Our job, as members of this committee needs to be to find bills that motivate all students to be in school, to stay in school, to participate, to learn, and maybe to have some fun.

Our state and our country need people to repair cars, design new products, build homes and furnishings, keep our utilities operating, and operate the machines to manufacture our goods, market products and run businesses and much more. That is, we need people with the technical skills to maintain and grow a robust 21st century economy.

We also need young people that work well with others, show initiative, persevere when situations get tough, are inquisitive problem solvers, and see tasks through to completion. In other words, we need people with “soft skills” that appear in every job description in every company in the country, large and small.

- CTE programs prepare our young people with both the technical skills and the soft skills required to compete and succeed. They prepare students to be productive, independent citizens who will help our communities and our economies thrive.
- We do not have to invent successful, time-tested CTE programs; they exist today. Many of the most successful programs are affiliated with Career Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs), which are aligned with industries and are the subject of the bill before you. Many include a STEM component, too. CTSOs include the:
 - DECA (Marketing and business development professionals)
 - SkillsUSA (Workforce skills, including welding, machining, woodworking, carpentry, and much more)
 - HOSA (Health Professionals)
 - FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America)
 - FCCLA (Family Career and Community Leaders of America)
 - FFA (National Organization) has received enough community support that they will not be asking for support.
- We do not have to spend years developing excellent programs. The organizations I mentioned have worked closely with industry partners for many years to develop:
 - In-depth, well-articulated curriculum



- Detailed, structured lesson plans
- Teacher professional development
- Assessments
- Local, state and national competitions
- In other words, everything you'd want if you were designing a program from scratch.

These CTSOs combine a bit of theory and ample practice to help students develop the technical and leadership skills necessary for the 21st century. Students get hands-on experience that enhances the classroom curriculum. In turn these organizations prepare students for success in both career and college, by employing the Oregon Skill Sets and the Common Career Technical Core to ensure contextual learning and academic standards that reflect the goals and interests of all learners.

Through education, practice, and competition, CTSO students, as those who will testify later this afternoon, hone marketable skills which increases their ability to compete for jobs. They are prepared to be independent productive citizens who help our communities and economies thrive.

Career Technical Education is an area we have too often ignored, but local businesses are begging the legislature to find ways to prepare students for the workforce. Let's meet their request and simultaneously provide the next generation with the motivation and skills needed for living-wage jobs.

- The bill itself is very simple. It provides modest funding for staff to help teachers' build their programs and to coordinate the district and state competitions. Additional funding will go for cte teacher grants that would be used for program expenses or as some pay for extra duty. As you might imagine, these teachers typically spend many extra hours during the week and on weekends. It's time to recognize their work.

Let's work together to ensure that the students we graduate today will be prepared for productive life in our communities tomorrow.

Please, join me in voting "aye" on HB 2985.

I am prepared to take any questions you may have during or following the hearing.