

# Oregon Citizens Lobby

*A growing statewide collaborative effort by citizens to promote legislative accountability.*

Oregon Citizens Lobby opposes SB 270 for the following reasons.

This bill establishes institutional boards for the University Oregon and Portland State University.

## **Personal Choice**

SB 270 is part and parcel of a package of bills for the purpose of establishing three independent university systems with individual boards of directors giving these universities a high level of autonomy. As such, this bill does not appear to have any impact on the concept of personal choice. However, taken as a whole, the bills in this package will remove control of these universities from its current and established status to control by the three new boards. The entire higher education system then will fall under the control of a super-committee or board with all the members selected by the Governor, with the Governor serving as Chair.

## **Fiscal Responsibility**

SB 270, along with the related bills, will indeed prove to be a costly burden for the taxpayers of Oregon. The establishment of several new bureaucracies will add to the cost of governance of the higher education system. The Governor's plan calls for multiple millions of dollars to fund the new approach. Currently Oregon taxpayers, as well as businesses, are stressed to maintain the budgeting necessary to keep the universities and local colleges functioning. This bill will only add to the financial burden of taxpayers.

## **Limited Government**

SB 270 does not help reduce bureaucracy and staffing in the higher education community, it only adds a new level of governance. The current form of governance provides for one board accountable to the Oregon Legislature. Governor Kitzhaber's plan will add three more boards with which the Legislature will have to deal. Our hope is to reduce the size and scope of government, not to increase it.

## **Local Control**

SB 270 endeavors to return control to the various university systems allowing them a high level of autonomy and accountability.

## **Free Markets**

SB 270 does not in and of itself have a great impact on free markets since the universities function as public educational enterprises.

