

# Oregon Citizens Lobby

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

---

Oregon Citizens Lobby opposes SB 828 for the following reasons.

This bill appropriates \$1.5 million from the General Fund toward welding training: \$750,000, to Portland Community College; \$750,000 to Impact NW for programs in high schools.

---

## **Fiscal Responsibility**

This seems an inappropriate spending (total of \$1.5 million) of valuable General Fund dollars toward such a narrow purpose as welding. \$750

## **Local Control**

Impact NW's vision is: "By working with schools, businesses, faith communities, other community-based organizations and governmental agencies we create a safety net and springboard for community members to improve their quality of life and achieve independence." Their programs include early childhood education, youth and family services, housing services, and programs for disabled elderly. It is unclear how they will be know how to "awards grants to provide welding training programs in high schools."

## **Free Markets**

Our current education system is provide by the public monopoly. There is an argument that taxpayers are better off if the public provides education to the high school level and that some students will go into fields requiring welding skills. However, the argument for publicly subsidized higher education is weak. A free market solution would be for private firms to provide apprenticeships for welders to obtain these skills.

