



Office of the Senate President

Senate Education & Workforce Development Committee

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Senator Tim Knopp, Vice-Chair
Senator Lee Beyer
Senator Jeff Kruse
Senator Arnie Roblan

*TESTIMONY BY SENATOR PETER COURTNEY
SUPPORTING HB 3296
APRIL 16, 2013*

Chair Hass, Vice-Chair Knopp, members of the Senate Education & Workforce Development Committee, Administrator Donovan – Hello. My name is Peter Courtney. Thank you for hearing my testimony.

I am here today to talk about athlete agents. It is not the first time I have been before your committee to talk about this topic. In fact, I introduced Senate Bill 5 during the 2011 Session to deal with this subject. For a variety of reasons – some more interesting than others – I did not push for passage of that bill.

But I knew I would return.

There are numerous reports of how unethical sports agents can exploit young student athletes. With the success of our State's various athletic programs, there is little doubt that some of our young people are being targeted.

I am not saying that all sports agents are unscrupulous or are looking to take advantage of kids. I am saying that those who are unscrupulous, are a real threat to unsuspecting young athletes.

Illicit contact with agents can have big repercussions. The NCAA will rule student-athletes ineligible to compete. This is embarrassing for the student. It can ruin their career.

Oregon needs to send a message. Agents who attempt to take advantage of our student athletes are not welcome in this State.

Therefore, I have worked with Rep. Barnhart on House Bill 3296. He will speak in more detail about the bill but I would emphasize that a key component of the bill is putting violations under the Uniform Trade Practices Act. This will significantly improve enforcement of our laws and discourage the activities of unethical athlete agents.

Thank you for publically hearing House Bill 3296. I hope you find it worthy to hold a work session.

Thank you.