



**SENATOR GINNY BURDICK  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE**

**Testimony to the Senate General Government, Consumer and Small Business Protection  
Committee**

April 10, 2013

Members of the Committee:

For the record, my name is Ginny Burdick, and I represent Senate District 18 which encompasses Tigard, SW Portland and NW Portland.

Thank you for hearing SB 344 again today. The -3 amendment for SB 344 focuses on privacy protection for higher education candidates and current students by prohibiting the university or college from demanding access to a private social media page, such as Facebook. The original bill was more comprehensive, but it was quickly decided that taking on both the employment and higher education aspects was making the bill too complicated. The issue of employer access to social media passwords is dealt with in HB 2654, which recently passed unanimously in the House Committee on Business and Labor.

The -3 amendment stipulates that a higher education institution may not:

- Require, compel, or request that a student or prospective student disclose or provide access to a personal social media account, or allow an administrator or employee to view the contents of the account.
- Take or threaten to take disciplinary action or prohibit from participation in any activity for refusal to disclose or provide access to a social media account.
- Use refusal to provide access to a social media account as a basis for not admitting a student.

The -3 amendment doesn't prevent a college or university from:

- Viewing public information.
- Conducting an investigation and compelling a student to share specific information when there is a report of illegal activity.
- Revoking a student's access to computers or networks owned by the institution.
- Attaining a student's login and password on a social network that was created by the university.

As amended, SB 344 strikes a good balance between student privacy and the legitimate information needs of colleges and universities. I urge your support.

Sincerely,

Senator Ginny Burdick

