



Testimony on House Bill 2188
By Gary Conkling
House Higher Education Committee
February 11, 2013

Chair Dembrow and members of the committee, I am Gary Conkling, representing the Northwest Career Colleges Federation and its Oregon chapter that consists of both degree-granting and certificate-issuing institutions.

House Bill 2188 makes an appropriate change in Oregon statute to ensure that the career college regulators have the resources necessary to fulfill their mission in a timely manner.

While we support the purpose of the bill we also note that the Office of Degree Authorization and the Private Career Schools unit of the Department of Education are both slated to move under the Higher Education Coordinating Commission and, presumably, be part of the Postsecondary Education Department proposed by Governor Kitzhaber. We support that realignment, but suggest it go further to consolidate all regulation of career colleges, for both degree-granting and certificate-issuing institutions.

Some career colleges offer both degrees and certificates and straddle the current regulatory structure. More important, a single regulatory body for the entire sector can be more focused, consistent and efficient.

We make this recommendation in connection with HB 2188 because this new alignment may permit better utilization of administrators and staff to manage workload, including investigation and assessment of penalties.

The Northwest Career Colleges Federation supports adoption of this bill.