

**JOSEPH GALLEGOS**  
**STATE REPRESENTATIVE**  
DISTRICT 30



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

May 28, 2013

Senate Committee on Education Workforce Development  
900 Court St. NE, Hearing Room C  
Salem, OR 97301

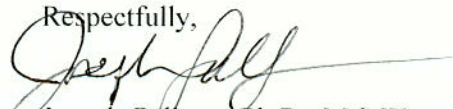
Chair Hass and Members of the Committee-

Thank you very much for hearing my testimony today in regards to the -2 amendment for HB 2898. First, I would like to talk a bit about HB 2898 as it is before you today. House Bill is a very worthy bill. It was passed out of the House Higher Ed and Workforce Development committee unanimously, with one member excused, and passed the House floor with a 60-0 vote.

This bill is about providing students with disabilities the tools they need to pursue a college education. Currently, individualized transition services are provided to each student with a disability as part of a long range plan that coordinates the last years of high school and the years immediately following graduation. The transition services focus on improving the academic and functional achievement of the student with disability as they move from high school to college, or assisted living. HB 2898 would help students with disabilities that are earning modified and extended diplomas to work towards college credits and career certificates as part of their high school transition program. Upon passage, that means students may be able to leave their transition programs ready for work with certificates in welding, culinary arts, child care or other occupations. HB 2898 also clarifies that Oregon students who are accepted on their own merits to Oregon universities and community college are eligible for Oregon based financial aid. Recently Federal Law changed preventing those without a traditional high school diploma to access Pell Grants and student loans. It does not require any college or university to accept a student who is unqualified for a program. They must meet admissions requirements. This bill would give access to state based financial aid for eligible students who meet all admission requirements to a college or university. These objectives are something that most anyone can agree to, which is why it is before you today with two previous unanimous votes.

The -2 amendment takes this bill of good intention with a great deal of support and adds something controversial to it. What the -2 amendment proposes is also proposed in its own bill- Senate Bill 600. It has passed the Senate and is in the House. The fact that SB 600 has not been moved in the House it is because of its controversial matter. Furthermore, the -2 amendment is not all connected to the original intent of HB 2898. It does nothing to benefit the original intent of HB 2898, but rather attempts to move through something controversial within a bill that not one person has yet to argue the objectives. Chair Hass and members of the committee I urge your no vote on the -2 amendments of HB 2898 in order to preserve a worthy piece of legislation and keep the original intent of the bill as it was voted on to be in front of you today.

Respectfully,



Joseph Gallegos Ph.D., M.S.W.

