



DIANE ROSENBAUM

SENATE MAJORITY LEADER

To: Senate Committee on Education and Workforce Development
From: Senator Diane Rosenbaum
Date: March 5, 2013
RE: Testimony in Support of SB 498: Career and Technical Education

Chair Hass, Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to be here today to testify in support of Senate Bill 498, the expansion of Oregon's Career and Technical Education programs.

Senate Bill 498 has overwhelming bipartisan support, demonstrating that investing in Oregon's Career and Technical Education programs is something we can all support. Career and Technical Education is essential to growing Oregon's economy, supporting the middle class, and getting people back to work.

Career and Technical Education has at its core, the shared goal of meeting the very real and immediate challenges of economic development, student achievement, and global competitiveness. These programs give students hands-on career experiences, helping them gain the skills, technical knowledge, and real-world experience that they need to prepare for high-skill, high-demand and high-wage careers.

The connection between education, a skilled workforce, and better jobs for Oregonians is critical. As quoted by the Oregon Editorial Board on March 1st, 2013;

“The first round of (CTE) grants allowed 21 schools to offer new or improved vocational programs. These programs meet two critical needs: They provide a path to family-wage jobs and match the needs of employers. Schools applying for funds must show close community partnerships and demonstrate that the curriculum meets skill-set requirements of existing employers and/or emerging industries.”

Having these key programs in our schools are essential to preparing students for success in life and developing a career. Sabin-Schellenberg High School in my district offers lots of programs for students to learn technical skills. It's an example for the type of opportunities every community should have.



These types of workforce training opportunities will prepare Oregonians for the jobs of the 21st Century. This is how we strengthen the middle class.

As a Chief Sponsor of this bill and Legislative member of the Oregon Workforce Investment Board, I am excited and honored to be joined by all of you and 83 of our colleagues in making this program a bipartisan priority this session.

I urge the Committee to send SB 498 to Ways and Means with a hearty "Do Pass" recommendation. Expanding the Career and Technical Education program should be one of our top priorities in 2013.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Diane Rosenbaum". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Senator Diane Rosenbaum
Senate Majority Leader
District 21