

Thank You Chair Dembrow and Members of the higher education and workforce development Committee

For the record my name is Dave Coburn and I am the Legislative Director at the Associated Students of Portland State University and A member of the Oregon Student Association board of directors.

The goal of this testimony is to examine critically whether HB 2149 addresses the concerns brought forward by students in our institutional board principles.

I contend that the bill does not address these concerns. Before we begin I will briefly state the principles, then examine specifically section 1 of the bill, then discuss consistency, the maintenance of a statewide vision, and finally access and affordability

OSA's Institutional Board principles briefly stated are:

1. Maintaining voices of important stakeholders in decision-making
2. Limiting unnecessary competition and duplication
3. Maintaining a system with a statewide vision and equal treatment of regional universities
4. Maintaining shared services and the benefits of economy of scale
5. Maintaining Statewide Bargaining rights
6. A clear tuition setting process

Having laid out the metric of evaluation we will now proceed to Section 1

Initially HB 2149 attempts to address concerns brought forward section 1 posits that Institutional Boards do not negatively impact regional universities, when regional universities have specifically stated that removing PSU & UO would be detrimental to those universities.

Further Section 1(e) states that the constitution and composition of the board is to be similar to the state board of higher education. Notably the institutional boards proposed do not include students, faculty or staff. The current composition of the State Board of Higher Education has a key feature of two students and two faculty representatives. Without these key stakeholders the comparison of Institutional Boards is not only dissimilar to the state board of higher ed. but missing key stake holders that have on the ground experience that is important to consider in making decisions which affect in very tangible ways not only the quality of education but the daily experiences of the students faculty and staff that live under these policies. It is further important that student faculty and staff voices be chosen by their constituencies to maintain fair and representative voices at the decision making table.