



635 NE Dekum St, Portland, OR, 97211 | (503) 286-0477 | [www.orstudents.org](http://www.orstudents.org) | @OregonStudents

Chair Harker, Vice Chairs Gallegos & Huffman and Members of the Committee,

For the record my name is Eric Noll and I serve as the Chair of the Oregon Student Association Board of Directors. Thank you for your time this morning. Today I'm testifying in on House Bill 4076 and in favor of the accompanying dash-1 amendment.

At this stage in this bill's development, OSA is tentatively supporting HB 4076.

Students have questions related to this bill and request that more research is done related to the financial and work load impact at the institutions specified in the bill. We have the following questions regarding the implementation of the proposed pilot programs and implementation of the bill:

- What are the costs of resources and labor related to research and implementation?
- Where will our institutions find funding for these pilot programs?
- Will fixed-cost bachelor's degrees push low-income students into certain degrees?
- Will a fixed-cost bachelor's degree result in certain degrees being prioritized over others?

While we have many questions and are concerned that the details may be too broad at this stage, students see opportunities to continue important conversations about affordability at post-secondary institutions. This provides yet another prospect for the State and universities to address the issues of student debt and rising tuition. These ideas are worth investigating and should be a priority of educators and legislators in a time when student debt and tuition prices are at an all-time high. Students are eager to seek solutions to this crisis and are willing to explore options that may result in the desired solutions.

In reference to the dash-1 amendment, we support the proposal to amend HB4076 with language that is more specific to the role of the Higher Education Coordinating Commission and further addresses the issue of long-term financial sustainability. We strongly advocate for a quality, affordable and accessible education for students and at the same time recognize the need for long-term financial sustainability.

We believe this bill aligns exactly with the purpose of the HECC; to research and help implement policy that increases access and moves the State closer to our 40-40-20 and completion goals.

OSA is recommending that the House Higher Education and Workforce Development Committee work to address the questions students have relating to the effect of the bill and offer our support as this conversation develops.

Thank you for your time and I will take questions from the Committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric Noll", written in a cursive style.

Eric Noll

Chair, OSA Board of Directors

