

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter in support of the bill that is being introduced by Representative Jeff Reardon. This bill, which is designed to help provide Vocational teachers, is essential to our schools and to the future of our State.

For a number of years no college in our State has had a program that produces Vocational educators. The result has been a mad scramble to fill positions as our educational work force ages. This past year we had an opening for a metals instructor at our high school. We advertised for over six months without getting a single application. We were finally able to solve our problem by shifting our current automotive teacher to metals then hiring an automotive teacher from industry. Currently both teachers are taking further education to fill their new roles. Not an easy road for either person.

As we work to meet 40-40-20 it will be essential that all high schools in Oregon are able to offer CTE credit to students. The 40-40-20 mandate requires us to set goals regarding the percentage of students graduating with 9 college credits. Not all students want to take AP or LDT (Lower Division Transfer credit ie College History) courses. CTE (Career Technical Education) credits are an essential option for many students.

Our State will always need welders, machinists, construction workers, electricians, and automotive mechanics. It is imperative, therefore, that we support any legislation that will allow our schools to continue to offer programs in these areas.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

John Bier
Principal
David Douglas High School

Reardon
2-10-14