



## **HB 4102-A: Protecting our students from Predatory Banks**

Testimony for Senate Education and Workforce Development  
Jody Wiser - February 25 2014

**HB 4102-A is exactly the kind of bill for which we have annual sessions.**

**Despite a settlement with the FDIC in 2012 for its deceptive and unfair fee practices, Higher One continues to charge Oregon's college students high fees for simple access to their financial aid money. It is clearly time for the legislature to step in with some regulations.**

**Decades ago most banks stopped charging any fees if your money was deposited directly to your account, which happens when student aid funds are deposited with Higher One. In most banking situations, debit cards remain cost free for withdrawal purposes, especially when using the ATMs of one's own bank. Why should it be different for students?**

**Clearly, Higher One has chosen the high-fee banking model because it can. Since our colleges and universities have not protected students from this predatory banking model, it is high time for the legislature to step in with these sensible regulations. We are proud to see this action.**

**This bill is a vast improvement on current practice. It is possible that Higher One will not find Oregon's contracts appealing any longer. That is fine. It will provide an opportunity to bring the jobs home to Oregon. Our own schools, banks, or credit unions should be hiring the staff to handle these transactions.**