



Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, Governor

Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs

"Advocating Equality and Diversity"

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OCHA Testimony in Favor of HB4116A
Joint Committee On Ways and Means Sub-Committee On Education
February 24, 2014

Co-Chairs Senator Rod Monroe and Representative Betty Komp and members:

The Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs (OCHA) is urging you to schedule a hearing and work session for HB 4116 which provides grants to Community Colleges for tuition support of underserved students.

There are over 452,000 Latinos in Oregon and many of the brightest Latino students will not be able to afford the tuition at four year universities. It is essential that HB 4116 receive a hearing in 2014 if we want to assure progress this year to ensure that our children can bring their talents into Oregon's higher education system. Community Colleges are often the only option for Latino and other underrepresented children. Creating tuition grants for these students ensures that our future workforce is representative of Oregon's rich diversity. We believe that this bill would create career pathways which make our communities and Oregon a more productive state in which to live and work.

We urge your positive vote on this keystone bill for access to education.

Sincerely,

Alberto Moreno, Chair

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Hispanic Affairs**

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