



# Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, Governor

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Testimony in Favor of HB4116A  
Joint Committee On Ways and Means  
March 3, 2014

Co-Chairs Senator Devlin and Representative Buckley and members:

The Oregon Commissions on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs (OCAPIA) and on Black Affairs (OCBA) strongly support HB 4116A which provides grants to Community Colleges for grow participation of underserved students.

The OCAPIA and OCBA know from the collective experience of our commissioners and the people we serve that nothing in this life matters more than the opportunity to be educated. Establishing grant programs to community colleges to increase the number of underserved, first generation and low income students is one of the best investments the State of Oregon can make in its future.

Many who finish community colleges start or buy existing businesses, transfer to four year institutions of higher learning and become pillars in their communities. Students in community college who receive financial support tend to complete college at a higher rate than those students for whom money is a constant challenge. Supporting students in their drive to finish their CC degrees with counselling and financial support is the proven way to build thriving communities of color.

Passing this legislation in 2014 gives Oregon the opportunity to grow its commitment to great education for all Oregonians at a critical time. Thank you for your positive consideration of HB 4116A.

Sincerely,

Stephen Ying  
Chair, Oregon Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs

James I Manning Jr.  
Chair, Oregon Commission on Black Affairs

**OR Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs**

Stephen Ying, Chair  
Mari Watanabe, Vice Chair  
Legislative Liaisons:  
Sen. Michael Dembrow  
Rep. Gene Whisnant

**OR Commission on Black Affairs**

James I. Manning Jr., Chair  
James Morris, Vice Chair  
Legislative Liaisons:  
Sen. Rod Monroe  
Rep. Lew Frederick

**OR Commission on Hispanic Affairs**

Alberto Moreno, Chair  
John Haroldson, Vice Chair  
Legislative Liaisons:  
Sen. Chip Shields  
Rep. Jessica Vega Pederson

**OR Commission for Women**

Stephanie Vardavas, Chair  
Jeanne Burch, Vice Chair  
Legislative Liaisons:  
Sen. Monnes Anderson  
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