



House Bill 2711
House Education Committee, Feb. 13, 2015

Chair Doherty, Vice-Chairs Frederick and Sprenger and members of the committee. For the record, my name is Dana Richardson, Deputy Director for the Higher Education Coordinating Commission, the “HECC”.

I am here today to speak specifically to what we have identified as some possible unintended consequences that would stem from the language in House Bill 2711.

As drafted, the bill would prevent the HECC, the OEIB, the Community Colleges and Workforce Development Department, the Oregon University System research division, and the Office of Student Access and Completion from collecting student information data. This is due to these entities not being “directly responsible for the student’s education program” as prescribed in Sec. 1(1)(b).

Implications from this include:

- Inability to provide legislatively required reports such as Key Performance Measures and the Minority Teacher Act;
- Inability to meet federal reporting requirements; and
- Inability to conduct research into attendance and achievement patterns.

OSAC is the federally designated agency to receive student data that is provided through the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). As such, they are responsible for providing student data to postsecondary institutions. As drafted, this bill would preclude them from fulfilling that duty and administering both the Oregon Opportunity Grants and scholarship programs to new high school graduates. It would also bar projects to assist high school students in receiving aid for postsecondary attendance.

All postsecondary institutions in Oregon would be prohibited from sharing or processing information with the HECC, OSAC, CCWD, or OUS for any secondary school student.

Additionally, under Sec. 1(1)(d), all of these entities would have to purge records of all personal identifying information when the information is no longer being used for the student’s education program thereby, again, preventing any longitudinal analysis of statewide educational patterns.

We believe these are unintended consequences and are ready and willing to discuss with the sponsor alternate approaches to protect student information while retaining the statewide research function.