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February 17th, 2015

To: Senate Education Committee
From: The Oregon Student Association, Mario Parker-Milligan
Re: Senate Bill 113

Chair Roblan, Vice Chair Knopp, and members of the committee,

The Oregon Student Association fully supports the passage of SB 113. This bill addresses necessary fixes to current faculty and staff ratio reporting conducted by public universities and community colleges.

We view this bill as one step towards addressing affordability and outcomes for institutions and students they serve. We know that in higher education, like primary education, that we have greater outcomes when our ratio of faculty to students is smaller and more intimate. For students this means more time spent with professors in class and during office hours, which for a lot of us, especially low-income students, can make or break our chances of success in the classroom and throughout our college careers.

We also believe a higher ratio of faculty and staff to supervisors is necessary and more cost effective for our state and institution's goals of graduating educated and skilled students into the workforce. More front line staff guiding students through their academic planning and financial aid options are more beneficial to students than someone sitting behind a desk and monitoring policy or public relations. Subsequently more faculty teaching in the classroom full time helps to create a better education environment that is far less disrupted than having more administrators or managers not directly working with students in a teaching environment.

This bill will provide necessary information for legislators and stakeholders to better understand disparities in our institutions and assist the state in making strategic financial investments in our institutions in order to improve the educational experience in Oregon and provide stronger outcomes.

We believe this is a good bill and should pass.

Thank you very much,

Mario Parker-Milligan

Legislative Director | Oregon Student Association