



Senate Bill 218
Senate Education Committee
Feb. 17, 2015

Chair Roblan, Vice Chair Knopp 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 briefly introduce you to our Office of Private Postsecondary Education and its Director, Juan Baez Arevalo.

Many people realize that the HECC, as an agency, is combining with the Community Colleges and Workforce Development Department and the Office of Student Access and Completion (OSAC). Not everyone knows that the HECC also includes Private Postsecondary Education which includes the Office of Degree Authorization (ODA), private career schools (PCS), and the veterans state approving agency. Each of these units carry the important duty of protecting investments that students make in private education.

The ODA, you may remember, used to be part of OSAC, and private career schools and the veterans program were in the Department of Education. In each of their previous locations, the programs relied on the parent agency for some financial support through General Fund dollars. The vision for the Office is that it be self-sustaining through program fees. Hence the bill that is before you today. With that I would like to introduce Juan Baez Arevalo and I would be happy to answer any questions.