



To: Senate Committee on Education  
From: University Online Learning Leaders in Oregon  
Date: February 17, 2015

Greetings:

We are writing in support of SB 218. This is one more necessary step in our efforts to establish a reciprocal set of agreements among all states to help us deal with complicated and expensive process of trying to comply with regulatory efforts surrounding offering online educational programs on a state-by-state basis.

Our support for SB218 stems from our need to motivate all states across the country to participate in the National State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement, known as SARA. The national SARA initiative will create interstate reciprocity in the regulation of postsecondary distance education. The four regional higher education compacts—including our Western Instate Commission for Higher Education—will collaborate to make distance education courses more accessible to students across state lines, as well as making it easier for states to regulate and institutions to participate in interstate distance education.

Full implementation of SARA nationwide will save Oregon higher education institutions significant resources. For example, Oregon State University spends more than \$350,000 per year in regulatory fees—which could more appropriately be used to provide greater equational access to our students. Enacting this bill will enable all of Oregon’s public universities to reduce their regulatory compliance costs as we seek to implement programs across the country.

We support the HECC direction and level of fees suggested.

Sincerely,

**Dave King**  
Associate Provost  
Outreach and Engagement  
Oregon State University  
[dave.king@oregonstate.edu](mailto:dave.king@oregonstate.edu)

**Stephen Scheck, Ph.D.**  
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs  
Western Oregon University  
[schecks@wou.edu](mailto:schecks@wou.edu)

**Dr. Susan Walsh**  
Vice President and Provost  
Southern Oregon University  
[shelby@sou.edu](mailto:shelby@sou.edu)

**Sukhwant Jhaj**  
Vice Provost for Academic Innovation and Student Success  
Portland State University  
[jhaj@pdx.edu](mailto:jhaj@pdx.edu)

**Sandra Gladney**  
Executive Director  
UO Academic Extension  
University of Oregon  
[skglad@uoregon.edu](mailto:skglad@uoregon.edu)

**Brad Burda**  
Provost  
Oregon Institute of Technology  
[Bradley.Burda@oit.edu](mailto:Bradley.Burda@oit.edu)

**Sarah Witte**  
Interim Provost  
Eastern Oregon University  
[switte@eou.edu](mailto:switte@eou.edu)