



March 9th, 2015

Thank you, Chair Reardon, Vice-chair Gallegos, Whisnat and members of the committee. For the record I am State Representative Betty Komp, representing Woodburn, Gervais and North Salem. I am testifying on two bills, HB 2681 and HB 2682.

I will speak about HB 2681 first. At the current moment, the community colleges across the state of Oregon are using many different tests to determine students' entrance and class choice. This has led to the same student not being able to find consistency or be served properly in our community colleges. One school may consider that student unable to take certain classes, while another school may waive them and vice versa. This bill seeks to rectify the situation by allowing community colleges to choose between four nationally available standardized assessments which would result in more consistent placement in courses.

HB 2682 on the other hand, works towards students further in the system. At this moment students moving from our community colleges to our colleges are finding many of their credits nontransferable, leading to time and massive amounts of money wasted by our local Oregonian college students. This bill, in its amended version, directs the Higher Education Coordinating Committee to direct a work group to ensure our students and colleges are prepared to get their core requirements classes accomplished at a high standard, determine how to minimize other potential credit loss, and help work towards having every student prepared to make the next step in their college career.

My grandson:

- Got accepted into college
- Enrolled in credits that he didn't know wouldn't transfer (HB 2682)
- Was placed in a class lower than his actual ability (HB 2681)
- Didn't think to go to his advisor, or know where that information was

The college process is complicated and expensive. If we can lend our students a helping hand, we should. We can save them time and money, while helping ensure the success of Oregon and creating the higher skilled citizens vital to contributing to our great state.

Thank you for your time.