



House Bill 2712
House Education Committee
April 20, 2015

Chair Doherty, Vice Chairs Frederick and Sprenger, and members of the committee. For the record, my name is Ben Cannon, Executive Director for the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC).

I am here to speak today to some of the consequences of adopting the -1 amendments to House Bill 2712. These comments are substantially similar to testimony provide for House 2711 when the Committee heard that bill in February.

The -1 amendments to House Bill 2712 carry forward a provision that prohibits entities that are not directly responsible for a student's education program from collecting student information data. This would preclude having a State Longitudinal Database. It would preclude providing legislatively required reports such a Key Performance Measures and the Minority Teacher Act and meeting federal reporting requirements. It would also preclude conducting research into attendance and achievement patterns.

The amendments would significantly impact the Office of Student Access and Completion (OSAC), the federally designated agency to receive student data provided through the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). As such, OSAC is responsible for providing student data to postsecondary institutions. The -1 amendments would prevent them from fulfilling that duty and administering Oregon Opportunity Grants and numerous other scholarship programs for new high school graduates. It would also bar projects that assist high school students in receiving aid to attend postsecondary institutions.

In spite of the concerns that I have outlined, our agency is ready and willing to work with the sponsor and this committee to address alternate approaches to protect student information while still retaining a statewide research function.

Thank you for your attention and I would be happy to answer any questions.