



Date            April 30, 2015

To              Senate Education Committee

From            Jim Middleton, Department of Community Colleges and Workforce Development  
Interim Commissioner

Subject        House Bill 2408A

Good morning, Chair Roblan, Vice-Chair Knopp, and members of the committee. For the record, my name is Jim Middleton, Interim Commissioner for the Department of Community Colleges and Workforce Development (CCWD).

I am pleased to be here today to voice my support for HB 2408A. The process that led to the bill before you has been collaborative, iterative and balanced.

Community colleges and CCWD were well-represented in developing the bill before you with myself, CCWD Deputy Commissioner Krissa Caldwell (providing a historical perspective), Connie Green (providing both a CCWD and campus president perspective), and Ed Dodson (campus and trustee perspective) participating. We of course, also worked closely with Andrea Henderson of the Oregon Community College Association.

Passing this bill will:

- Support the HECC's responsibility to fulfill its coordination role,
- Integrate CCWD into the HECC organization and operations,
- Maintain an appropriate sense of CCWD identity within the HECC organization and structure,
- Recognize the local role and authority of local boards, and
- Affirm CCWD's role with workforce as well as the mainstream community college role.

Thank you for the opportunity to share this information; I'm pleased to answer any questions.