



Date April 30, 2015
To Senate Education Committee
From Connie Green, Tillamook Bay Community College President
Subject House Bill 2408A

Senator Roblan and members of the committee, please accept this statement as testimony in support of House Bill 2408A. I am sorry I am unable to appear before your Committee in person this afternoon.

I was a member of the House Bill 4018 Task Force that was created in the 77th Legislative Session. This task force was charged with analyzing how the Department of Community Colleges and Workforce Development (CCWD) can function for the colleges and workforce and be integrated into the Higher Education Coordinating Commission.

Task Force members included Senator Mark Hass, Representative Paul Holvey, community college presidents Debra Derr and myself. Ed Dodson, a member of Chemeketa Community College Board, chaired the committee. HECC Executive Director Ben Cannon and HECC Commission Vice-Chair Betty Duval also served. HECC staff provided excellent support throughout. An interim report was submitted to the legislature last September that highlighted the considerations the task force took into account including:

- Intended outcomes determined the work should be focused on the State's 40-40-20 goal and the operational and technical ongoing needs and success of CCWD by supporting the 17 colleges and their local boards and the workforce boards,
- The work of a related task force on workforce coordination between the HECC and the Oregon Workforce Investment Board (OWIB) and its impact on CCWD and the colleges,
- The recent legislative history pertaining to CCWD and HECC, particularly HB 3120 (2103) and HB 4018 (2014), and the current status of the two organizations, including their missions and functions,
- Statutes governing CCWD and recent governance reforms in postsecondary education, including consideration of specific job duties designated in statute to the Commissioner for Community College Services, CCWD agency oversight, support to the community colleges, and the flexibility needed to support HECC leadership and local community college and workforce leadership,
- The past, current and future missions of community colleges in Oregon and the relationship between the community-focused mission of community colleges that creates a fabric for learning from adult basic skills, to transfer, career technical to small business development and contract training and the statewide mission of the HECC, and
- A Community College Statewide Structure & Support Principles 2013 document that was foundational for the community college participants who guided the statutory recommendations to ensure that CCWD would deliver what was needed in the future.

House Bill 2408A would:

- Change the name of the Department of Community Colleges and Workforce Development to the Office of Community Colleges and Workforce Development. This change would provide consistency within HECC and its other agency units,
- Retain the Office of CCWD within the HECC,
- Change references to the Commissioner for Community College Services to the Director of the Office of CCWD, again for consistency with other HECC agency units, and
- Transfer rulemaking authority and appropriations from CCWD to the HECC.

However, the bill is more than technical. Community college representatives on the work group desired a commitment that CCWD would remain active for the colleges and workforce support on technical issues and a convener on issues that are locally identified that need to be modified, changed and improved. The colleges asked to create a shared understanding with HECC and OCCA so that the role of CCWD and the colleges share a common direction and a way to move forward in this relationship.

Thank you.