



**House Bill 2681A**  
**Senate Education Committee**  
**April 30, 2015**

Chair Roblan, Vice-Chair Knopp, and members of the committee. For the record, my name is Dana Richardson, Deputy Director for Legislative and Policy Affairs at the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC).

I am pleased to be here today to speak to HB 2681A. We worked with Representative Komp as well as representatives from Community Colleges and Workforce Development (CCWD), the Oregon Community Colleges Association (OCCA), the Oregon Education Investment Board (OEIB), the Oregon Student Association (OSA), and the public universities to bring you this amended bill.

The bill would build upon existing efforts by the HECC and the State Board of Education. It would direct them to jointly oversee a work group to recommend strategies to effectively and appropriately place incoming high school graduates in community college courses. This will include consideration of use of the Smarter Balanced Assessment test.

You may have heard recently that all 17 community colleges and 7 public universities have adopted alignment agreements to pilot the use of Smarter Balanced exam results in order to waive placement testing for students who score a 3 or higher on the Math and English tests and meet requirements for continued academic rigor during their Senior year. While there are still some technical implementation issues to work through the HECC believes these agreements are a great step forward in aligning grades 11-14.

While the bill would build upon existing work, it also plows new ground. A work group with representatives from community colleges, public universities, students and high school educators has not been formally convened on this issue in the past. The bill directs that group to report back to the Legislature by next February with preliminary recommendations and complete a report to the Legislature by next September.

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