

April 29, 2015

RE: HB 2681 and HB 2525, Senate Education Committee: HR C

Thank you, Chair Roblan, and members of the committee. For the record I am State Representative Betty Komp, representing Woodburn, Gervais and North Salem. I am testifying in support of HB 2681 and HB 2525.

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 had 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. HB 2681 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 2525 works towards students further in the system. At this moment students moving from our community colleges are finding many of their credits nontransferable, leading to time and money wasted. HB 2525 directs the Higher Education Coordinating Committee to direct a work group to ensure our students and colleges minimize potential credit loss and help work towards having every student prepared to make the next step in their college career.

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.