



Date February 6, 2015  
To House Higher Education, Innovation and Workforce Development Committee  
From Jim Middleton, Department of Community Colleges and Workforce Development  
Interim Commissioner  
Subject House Bill 2408

Good morning, Chair Read, Vice-Chairs Gallegos and Whisnant, 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).

For my part, I would like to say that 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.