



Date: February 6, 2015

To: House Committee on Higher Education, Innovation and Workforce Development

From: Dana Richardson, Deputy Director for Policy and Legislative Affairs, Higher Education Coordinating Commission  
Susan Degen, Administrator, State Grants and Government Affairs, Office of Student Access and Completion

Subject: House Bill 2409 (OSAC Housekeeping)

Good morning Chair Read, Vice Chairs Gallegos and Whisnant, and members of the House Higher Education Committee. For the record, I am Dana Richardson, Deputy Director for Policy and Legislative Affairs with the Higher Education Coordinating Commission. I'm pleased to be here today with Susan Degen from the Office of Student Access and Completion (OSAC) to describe House Bill 2409. We are pleased to bring you a bill that would repeal unused or unfunded statutory programs and streamline and clarify a couple of other statutes. I will turn the testimony over to Susan for a more detailed explanation of the bill.

The Office of Student Access and Completion administers the Oregon Opportunity Grant, nearly 500 privately funded scholarships, and a variety of government funded programs including the Chafee Education and Training Grant for former foster youth. In addition, we are home to ASPIRE (Access to Student Assistance Programs In Reach of Everyone), a mentoring program that matches trained and supportive adult volunteer mentors with middle and high school students to develop a plan to help them meet their education goals beyond high school.

The primary purpose of House Bill 2409 is to streamline existing statute by deleting a number of old, defunct scholarship and loan programs that were administered by the OSAC. The bill also consolidates into one account a number of related funds created by statute ten or more years ago in order to improve program administration. Finally, the measure separates language for two existing scholarship programs – one for dependent children of deceased and disabled public safety officer and one for former foster youth – into two separate sections of statute.

Removing old, defunct, and long-unfunded programs from statute will allow OSAC to focus on existing, active programs. Combining multiple old accounts will eliminate duplicative accounting procedures. Creating separate sections of statute for two different scholarship programs will resolve confusion and clarify provisions associated with each program.

The attached table summarizes each affected program and the proposed changes in more detail. We would be happy to walk the committee through some of these changes, if time permits. OSAC has contacted all agencies and other entities that have or had programs referenced in the

sections of statute proposed for deletion: Oregon University System, Department of State Lands, Eastern Oregon University, Oregon Health Sciences University, and the Oregon Education Investment Board. We are not aware of any concerns around removing or updating these statutes.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today. We look forward to answering your questions.