
Passage of SB 1537 is needed to fill the gaps left by the Oregon Promise for the most vulnerable group of students. These students typically are lacking the family background and support structure that the Oregon Promise assumes is there. Providing support and opportunities to this group of students will give them hope and the necessary support that will result in a better life for them, but also a resource for Oregon. If Oregon is going to change the status quo, it needs to adopt innovative programs that are based on success. The existing 'Fifth Year' programs have demonstrated higher graduation rates, engaged students looking at their future beyond high school, and reduced the dropout rate. As a school board member, I see this kind of funding as the way to turn the corner to a better and more productive populace.

Regards,
Bill Kemper
Corvallis School Board Member