

Eighteen months ago I retired to Oregon and began volunteering in my new community. One place I chose to engage was Corvallis' College Hill High School - the city's alternative public high school. Being there four days a week on average during the school year I have witnessed the life changing impacts a program like SB 1537 can provide our most at risk students. You have already seen and heard from three of them. There are many more like them -- all with a different story to tell -- who have responded positively to the prospect of something they never dreamed of -- educational opportunities beyond high school. Instead of dropping out, they buckled down and showed that with the right supports and a little incentive they could overcome their past and truly succeed.

If the legislature is serious about achieving the 40-40-20 goal by 2025 (or any other future year), and improving the educational and longterm economic outcomes for Oregonians, then deciding to vote YES vote on SB 1537 seems logical. When you have a successful program you work to maintain it. Whenever possible you improve upon it. SB 1537 maintains the core program and provides improvements. It also has monitoring and reporting provisions that will likely lead to future improvements.

A YES vote on SB 1537 provides Oregon students who face tremendous educational barriers an opportunity to succeed in life. Please allow them that chance. Make the investment today.

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