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**Testimony on Senate Bill 653**  
**Before the House Committee on Higher Education and Workforce Development**  
**Feb. 28, 2017**

Chair Roblan, members of the committee, for the record, my name is John Wykoff, Deputy Director of the Oregon Community College Association. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 653. I would also like to thank Senator Kruse for all of his work on both the bill before you today and previous funding requests to help the college and the community recover from the tragic events of October 1, 2015. I apologize for the lateness of this written testimony and appreciate the committee's willingness to accept it in lieu of my personal testimony.

All of Oregon's 17 community colleges strongly support this legislation, which would provide critical ongoing security-related staffing. Maintaining a sense safety on campus is critical to the learning environment. It is especially important in the aftermath of this type of event, while the campus and the community are still in the process of healing and rebuilding, that reassurance of a safe space for learning is reinforced and supported. This type of support is especially salient from a body like the Oregon Legislature.

Funds from this legislation will also be used to hire a network systems security specialist. A position such as this will enable fiber optics and other system upgrades that are specific to being prepared for emergencies such as what occurred on October 1, 2015. This position will also monitor and manage the college's network, an essential duty for technological security.

This legislation will also assist with the reconstruction of Snyder Hall, the primary site of the events on October 1<sup>st</sup>. Funding from the legislature will ensure that construction of the new Snyder Hall is completed in a timely manner, helping to restore a sense of normalcy on campus.

All 17 of Oregon's community colleges urge the committee to support this bill and appreciate the willingness to help with ongoing assistance to our colleagues at Umpqua Community College.