

Testimony in support of SB 297 CTE/STEM Council with amendments outlined in my testimony.

My name is Don Domes and I am a Licensed Tax and Small Business Consultant from Hillsboro, Oregon. I am also a retired CTE Technology and Science Teacher with 36 years of experience and a Grandparent.

I want to encourage your support of Senate Bill 297 with amendments. I want to speak specifically regarding the advisory group. As written, SB 297 has one CTE teacher from K-12 and one Science Teacher from K-12. As a tax and small business consultant I have seen a few business plans. In some cases the business plan says that the group is going to invent a new product, patent the product, produce it, and sell the product to a target market. Most of us that read this type of business plan flip to the bio's of the people who are going to execute the plan. We look for people who have:

- Invented a product successfully
- Patented the product successfully
- Produced significant quantities of the product successfully
- Sold the product into the target market successfully

If I don't see multiple people with an actual track record of success I don't suggest investing in the team.

This bill, as written, has only one K-12 CTE teacher and only one K-12 science teacher. I implore you to change the language to "three model K-12 CTE teachers with highly successful Programs of Study" and "three model K-12 STEM teachers with highly successful programs". This council needs practitioners that have actually delivered the desired results with the target market. If only one teacher remains written into the bill please consider if that one teacher is sick, or has to be in their classroom, then no teacher will be at the meeting. If the Teacher is located a significant distance from the meeting getting their participation is even more complex.

I also suggest that the council members be made up of "at least 5 members who became successful via the CTE route and 5 members who became successful via the STEM route".

Oregon has a persistently low on-time graduation rate and we have a serious shortage of human resources in several sectors of our economy. Please realize that these issues are still plaguing us after spending over 3 Billion dollars annually on a K-12 system that has hired the best and the brightest that it can afford. Thousands of highly educated people have "not been able to put Humpty Dumpty back together again" to parallel a children's rhyme. It is imperative that this combined council and advisory group have experienced representation that has successfully negotiated this fire swamp. Please do not underestimate the complexity of what this group needs to tackle. Measure 98 voters delivered a 2/3 mandate to bring back hands on learning and CTE classes.

Some of the complexity comes from the fact that all CTE and many of the STEM classes at the high school level are elective. Yes, ELECTIVE – which means that no student is required to take the class. This is the equivalent of giving the check book to high school students. Virtually no parents do that, but we run our high schools this way. Please consider that the high school students are managing the check book. They will be spending the money on what they decide they want to buy – i.e. which classes they choose to take. Adult thinking is very often different than high school student thinking. If this council does not get in serious touch with kids and teachers I question how much difference they will make.

Again, please amend this bill to:

Respectfully submitted by Don Domes      March 30, 2017

1. Require “three model K-12 CTE teachers with highly successful Programs of Study” and “three model K-12 STEM teachers with highly successful programs” on the advisory group.
2. Require “at least 5 council members who became successful via the CTE route and 5 council members who became successful via the STEM route.”

Respectfully submitted,

Don Domes

Licensed Tax and Small Business Consultant – 30 years

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