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To: House Committee on Higher Education and Workforce Development

From: Scott Compton

RE: HB 2666

Hello Chair Reardon, Vice-Chair Alonso Leon, Vice-Chair Whisnant, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Scott Compton, and student autonomy and shared governance has drastically impacted my college experience; and I expect these experiences to shape my preparedness for life after graduation. I'm graduating this summer, and I've been involved with student governments all four years. Student Government is truly a laboratory experience, that allows for you try out different organizing, communicational, and time management strategies that really impact you regardless of what profession you go into. While all of these things are important, the most important take away that I've had from my time in Student Government is that individuals can be effective vehicles for change in their community.

My goals and aspirations include going onto a master's program, and becoming a High School Civics teacher; where it'll be my job to teach students how to interact with the world around them in order to make social progress and change. If I didn't have an autonomous laboratory experience than my job would be infinitely harder, if not impossible. The key word in what I just said is the autonomous part: it's important for students to be able to participate in shared governance so they understand their voice matters, and it's even more important to let students make choices and see the consequences of these choices; sometimes these choices turn out great, while other times these choices turn into learning moments. It's these times where choices don't turn out great that the largest amount of learning can happen.

While some would argue that eroding student autonomy wouldn't change where student fees would go, however, this isn't the case. The lead admin working with the student fee committee on my campus is passing along false truths such as the fact that students don't have rights to student fees, and that we can't raise our student fee. This is exceptionally alarming, as our clubs, services and unions are growing exponentially, and we need to be able to fund them accordingly, otherwise we risk significant loss of services.

Community colleges collect their fee the same way that universities do, community colleges fee's go towards organizations in the same ways that university fees do, and it's important that community colleges have the same autonomy and protections that universities do. Without your support and protections, student fees and student autonomy is at great risk of erosion, and this leads to a less effective educational experience.

In less than diverse schools such as Lane Community College and the University of Oregon, student governments often attract the most varied environments, leading to traditionally



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marginalized students gaining important leadership skills that are even more important for them, such as how to navigate governments and find a voice in a world that tells people to stay quiet.

For these reasons and more, I believe this bill is important in building and maintaining student autonomy, shared governance, and an effective education.