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To: House Committee on Higher Education and Workforce Development

From: Mattie Wyszynski

RE: HB 2864

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

My name is Mattie Wyszynski and I am in my first year at Lane Community College. I am from Portland, Oregon and I am an Oregon Student Association intern.

Though I am only in my second term at Lane Community College, I have noticed micro aggressions all around me. A safe environment is something every educational institute strives for but does not always create. In a classroom setting micro aggressions should not be tolerated, but in my case they are. Faculty members blindly make statements regarding student's country of origin, first language and appearance based on their perceptions. Though these statements are offensive, these faculty members don't even realize they are doing it. When I am in a classroom setting this is difficult to watch because it is racist, ignorant and biased. One faculty member at Lane Community College encouraged students to participate in naming stereotypes of marginalized communities based off of race and religion. When this occurs in a classroom setting and encourages students to participate it makes me feel like this is not a safe or culturally competent environment. I believe this impacts the quality of my education, the classroom did not feel like a safe environment when microaggressions happen and go unnoticed.

We need cultural competency because it protects our students and it is inclusive of everyone. It brings everyone from different backgrounds and communities together to achieve a quality education. Lane community college has worked hard to assure a safe learning environment for every student and when a situation like this occurs we take two steps backwards. To ensure a safe campus we as a community should work together to hold each other accountable and remember we are here to learn and grow. Creating cultural competency standards is the way we plant the seeds for our community to protect and support students from diverse backgrounds. This bill is essential because no student should ever feel separated out from their peers or superiors, no matter their race, gender, or religion.