



To: Senate Committee on Education  
From: Richard Donovan, Oregon School Boards Association  
Re: House Bill 2147A  
Date: April 24, 2017

Chair Roblan and members of the Senate Committee on Education:

On behalf of the Oregon School Boards Association membership, including 197 school districts and 19 Education Service Districts throughout the state of Oregon, thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 2147A. OSBA supported HB 2147 throughout the legislative process in the House of Representatives, and again supports the amended measure in the Senate.

One of OSBA's legislative policies for the 2017-18 biennium is to support student achievement, and HB 2147A would generate information that will do just that. Currently, there is no information to connect the good work done by schools in getting students to graduate to the next steps that students take into post-secondary academia. I have heard repeatedly from many education stakeholders, including school board members, administrators, teachers, and parents, that they are generally aware of what students choose to do after graduating. But this information is anecdotal, something that often sounds like, "Yes, I know what happened to Johnny, he went off to the engineering program at OSU" or "Rachel got a full ride to play basketball at the U of O." Anecdotal evidence can be valuable, but it is not enough.

HB 2147A would give policy makers, from legislators to school district board members, more information. The amendments, adopted by the House Committee on Education, ensure that the information moves appropriately. By requiring that all institutions in Oregon report to the Oregon Department of Education and the Higher Education Coordinating Commission information about how many of the enrolled students came from Oregon schools, education stakeholders will be able to make better decisions. Instead of having only partial, anecdotal information, policymakers will be able to find out where certain students are coming from, where they ended up, and will hopefully be one step closer to identifying practices to make sure that all students achieve success after graduation.

Oregon has made progress towards the mandated 40-40-20 attainment goal, but this progress has necessitated a certain level of "learning as we go" for all education stakeholders. HB 2147A will give stakeholders more information, allowing everyone to make better decisions. Again, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2147A.

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