

Dave Porter
1113 SE Cora Street
Portland, OR 97202

For public hearing 6/13/17
 Subject: SB 437

Chair Roblan and members of the Senate Committee on Education. My name is Dave Porter. I live in SE Portland.

Please amend SB 437 to include paying for high school study abroad programs. Please adopt the following amendments.

Add Section 2 (3) (a) **(D) A participating entity in this state or outside this state that provides a program of high school study abroad.**

Add Section 2 (4) (b) (A) Receive instruction outside of this state, unless provided in subsections (3) (a) (B), (C), or **(D)**.

Section 4 (1) **(h) Fees for a high school study abroad program.**

Section 6 (1) **(g) An organization listed with the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel.**

High school year in China ASSE estimate for 2018-19 For one student	
Basic fee	\$8,950
Application fee	\$250
In US airfare	\$300
Subtotal	\$9,500
5% for inflation	\$475
Total	\$9,975

According to the Oregon Department of Education, the statewide “Operating Expenditures per Student” for the school year 2015-16 (report #51) was \$10,742. The study abroad organization ASSE has 2017-18 study abroad fees (including tuition, meals and lodging with a family and international transportation) for a high school year abroad in 24 countries for less than that \$10,742. Oregon could cut educational costs by send some high school students to study abroad.

Program Fees: 2017/2018*	
School Year or Semester** (August/September 2017 Departure)***	Price
Germany, Sweden, Norway, Italy, Switzerland, Czech Republic, Finland, Spain, Holland, Turkey, Belgium, Estonia, Romania, Portugal, Slovakia, and Moldova	\$7850
France	\$8900
Denmark	\$9450
Mexico	\$7400
English Canada	\$9850
English Canada Choice Plus (Vancouver)	\$21000
English Canada Choice Plus (Calgary)	\$20750
French Canada	\$12000
Thailand (July departure)	\$7200
China, Taiwan, Mongolia, Vietnam	\$8950

Five reasons to develop a high school study abroad program:

(1) **Benefits to students:** Becoming an exchange student gives a student more than knowledge about another country and its language and culture. A year abroad teaches about building friendships, taking responsibility for oneself, respecting differences and tolerating the beliefs of others.

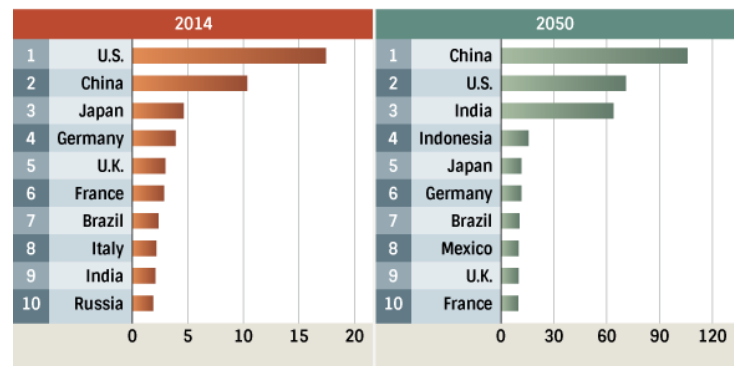
Exchange students develop leadership skills, self-confidence and a greater understanding of the complexities of the world around them. This is why the best universities, as well as corporations and professionals, look favorably on students who have spent a school year abroad. They know that former international exchange students bring a higher level of maturity and a global frame of reference to their university studies and activities.



(2) **Equity:** Creating study abroad opportunities for low-income students. Currently, most high school students studying abroad are from affluent families. Creating a public paid high school study abroad program could extend these opportunities to low income students.

(3) **Economic growth:** The economic future of Oregon will depend increasingly on our ability to sell our goods and services abroad. We need to give our students the skills and experiences needed to market our goods and services abroad. Note that in 2050 the other four top five forecasted economies are, like Oregon, all in the Asia-Pacific region. Oregon would be wise to target its foreign language and high school study abroad programs on these countries: China, India, Indonesia and Japan.

World's top 10 economies in 2050 at market exchange rates, nominal GDP, in trillions of U.S. dollars



Source: The Economist Intelligence Unit

(4) **National security:** The Asia-Pacific region is becoming more dangerous. Russia and China already have nuclear missiles targeted at Oregon. North Korea may now or soon also have the capability to hit Oregon with a nuclear missile. Oregon needs to up its investments in peaceful engagement in the region.



(5) **Antidote to Trump:** Reject President Trump’s “America First” approach to foreign policy.

Professor G. John Ikenberry writes in Foreign Affairs:

Is the world witnessing the demise of the U.S.-led liberal order? If so, this is not how it was supposed to happen. The great threats were supposed to come from hostile revisionist powers seeking to overturn the postwar order. The United States and Europe were supposed to stand shoulder to shoulder to protect the gains reaped from 70 years of cooperation. Instead, the world’s most powerful state has begun to sabotage the order it created. A hostile revisionist power has indeed arrived on the scene, but it sits in the Oval Office, the beating heart of the free world. Across ancient and modern eras, orders built by great powers have come and gone—but they have usually ended in murder, not suicide.....

..... Today, the defenders of the order will need to recapture its essence as a security community, a grouping of countries bound together by common values, shared interests, and mutual vulnerabilities. Trump will do a lot of damage to this order, but the decisions of others—in the United States and abroad—will determine whether it is ultimately destroyed. “The best lack all conviction, while the worst / Are full of passionate intensity,” William Butler Yeats wrote in the aftermath of World War I. If the liberal democratic world is to survive, its champions will have to find their voice and act with more conviction.

Please find your voices and be champions for student engagement abroad as an anti-Trump rejection of his narrowly nationalistic, overly militaristic foreign policy. “Act with conviction!”

Thank you – Dave Porter

