



Testimony on House Bill 2312
House Higher Education and Workforce Development Committee
February 7, 2017

Chair Reardon, Vice-Chairs Whisnant and Alonso León, and members of the Committee. For the record, my name is Kyle Thomas and I am the Director of Legislative and Policy Affairs for the Higher Education Coordinating Commission. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 2312. This bill was introduced by the HECC, and I hope you will give it your support.

Though lengthy, this measure makes straightforward technical changes to numerous Oregon employment and higher education statutes, including updating references to the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). This federal Act supplants many provisions of the federal Workforce Investment Act (WIA), and throughout the Oregon Revised Statutes, there are many references to the WIA that require updating to the new WIOA.

The bill also changes the name of the State Workforce Investment Board to the State Workforce Development Board, and changes references regarding “workforce investment” to “workforce development” to reflect updated federal nomenclature.

Finally, the bill also replaces outdated references to the Office of Community Colleges and Workforce Development to recognize that, through the reorganization of the higher education system in Oregon, this office is now a division within the Higher Education Coordinating Commission.

Thank you again for the opportunity to discuss this legislation. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.