



Oregon Community College Association
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**Testimony on House Bill 2565
Before the House Committee on Higher Education and Workforce Development
Feb. 9, 2017**

Chair Reardon, members of the committee, for the record, my name is John Wykoff, Deputy Director of the Oregon Community College Association. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 2565.

OCCA would like to thank Representatives Witt and Evans for bringing forward this clarification to existing statute regarding priority registration for veterans at community colleges and universities. The language in HB 2565 helps make clearer the expectation of the legislative body, and the new language is more consistent with the actual processes for priority registration at colleges and universities.

We would also like to clear up what has appeared to be confusion over whether the current statute regarding priority registration, as well as the new language, apply to community colleges. We believe both do, but the new language makes the expectations clearer. The only exemption for community colleges is for colleges that do not actually have a priority registration system. This is only true for a couple of the smallest colleges where wait lists have not been an issue, so they have not put such a system in place. Were those colleges to, at some point, institute a priority registration system, either current law or the language in HB 2565, should it move forward, would apply.

Community colleges are committed to helping veterans achieve their goals in higher education and look forward to continuing to work with this and other relevant committees to make priority registration for veterans work consistently across all colleges with a priority registration system.