

February 2, 2018

House Committee On Higher Education and Workforce Development

Honorable Jeff Reardon, Chair
Honorable Teresa Alonso Leon, Vice-Chair
Honorable Gene Whisnant, Vice-Chair

Representative Janelle Bynum
Representative Brian Clem
Representative Dallas Heard
Representative Ron Noble
Representative E. Werner Reschke
Representative Janeen Sollman

Oregon State Legislature 900 Court St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97301
Room HR-D
February 8, 2018, 3:00 PM

RE: HB 4043, requiring community colleges to conduct a joint study regarding student benefit education and education about application processes.

Chair Reardon, and Committee members,

My name is Jonah Hakanson, from Klamath Falls, Oregon.

I am requesting an amendment to House Bill 4043 to guarantee this bill's intent is effective if passed. The intent of this amendment would be to guarantee that those staff and faculty whose work currently requires them to inform students about benefit programs, and how to apply for them, are explicitly required in the study process. Our community colleges have various staff assigned to this kind of work, and their participation should be a requirement in developing any report required under Section 1 of this bill.

The bill references "relevant stakeholders," and I believe this will be followed in good faith. However, a guarantee that existing relevant staff and faculty will be involved will also guarantee that the report generated will be useful. The assumption that "relevant stakeholders" will include relevant staff and faculty needs to be a requirement.

I am requesting that an expansion on the "including, but not limited to" clause be considered as follows.

I am requesting an addition to Section 1(3) a new part (c) to read as follows:

At least one full-time staff or full-time faculty member from each community college, that is currently employed to provide support for student engagement, activities, or leadership.

Sincerely,

Jonah Hakanson