



Testimony on House Bill 4051
House Education Committee
February 5, 2018

Chair Doherty, Vice-Chairs Hernandez and Wilson, and members of the Committee. 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 submit testimony on House Bill 4051.

The Commission, as one of the stewards and proponents of the state 40-40-20 goal, which seeks to ensure 100% of Oregonians have a high school degree or equivalent, 80% have a post-secondary credential, and 40% have a Bachelor's degree, has a strong interest in improving outcomes for rural Oregonians. Additionally, as the coordinating entity for higher education policy in Oregon, the Commission has a significant interest in the work of this Task Force, especially in the Task Force's charge to 'recommend changes in state policy to support rural schools with an emphasis on ... serving underrepresented students and advancing secondary education.

While the HECC does not have a representative on the Task Force, the agency is committed to ensuring the success of rural students, and are interested in monitoring and collaborating in the work of this group. We look forward to participating in this work to the greatest extent possible, despite not having a delineated formal role.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this testimony.