

Testimony in favor of HB 4012

February 5, 2018

Chairman Holvey, Vice Chairs Barreto and Bynum, and Committee

For the record, my name is Don Domes and I am a retired CTE teacher, a Licensed Tax and Small Business Consultant, and a Grandpa. I am here as a private citizen.

I am in favor of HB 4012 and want to urge your support and referral to the House for a vote.

First, I want to express my sincere appreciation for the support of CTE and STEM by this and prior legislative sessions. Due to the CTE Career Pathways Funds, Revitalization Grants, and other dollars there is new life being breathed into CTE. I spent over 30 years of my life as a CTE teacher and I can attest to the wonderful results of outstanding CTE programs. At the heart of those programs is the CTE teacher. Many of us in CTE, especially in the industrial and engineering pathway have become acutely aware of the lack of a robust pipeline producing trained and prepared instructors. In 1991, the Technology and Vocational Teacher training program at Oregon State was closed due to complex financial times. That was over 25 years ago and there has not been a program of that caliber in Oregon since then.

In 2015, HB 3058 was passed with a sunset of June 30, 2018. The bill added CTE teachers to the 1039 hour exception list for retired teachers under PERS. The exception list was created for jobs that pose extra difficulties in finding qualified applicants. That bill passed 54-4 in the House and 28-1 in the Senate.

HB 4012 extends the sunset to June 30, 2023. This provides an option for retired CTE teachers and administrators who would want to hire a highly qualified and experienced person. This bill empowers a bridge to keep a CTE program alive or help start a new one. HB 4012 is not an answer to the shortage problem; it is a bridge and is part of a group of potential solutions. Bringing in people from Industry is a great idea, but there are complexities for those who desire to leave industry and go into teaching. Many of the trades are now experiencing serious shortages in their own industries. Principals are often very hesitant in today's education environment to hire someone who does not already have significant training as an educator. The need for CTE teachers has increased since the 2015 Legislature.

Retired CTE teachers often have the credentials and experience needed to keep potential college transfer credits alive. Dual credit is tied to the teacher, not to the course. Highly qualified and experienced CTE teachers within some pathways are almost impossible to find and we need every option available and open to provide this workforce development opportunity to Oregon students.

As a CTE teacher I have worked with thousands of students. As a licensed tax professional I often hear about the desire to raise personal income. It is imperative for our Oregon Workforce that we help students discover their career pathway. For many students their CTE teacher is a key to this process.

Thank you. I would be happy to entertain any questions or comments.

Submitted by Don Domes

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