

February 6, 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 benefits available to students and educating students about those benefits, including application processes.

Chair Reardon and Committee members,

My name is Kaitlin Hakanson and I am a faculty and staff member at Klamath Community College in Klamath Falls, Oregon. I am requesting an amendment to House Bill 4043 that I believe will help guarantee its effectiveness, if passed. The intent of this amendment is to guarantee that community college staff or faculty who are already required to inform students about benefit programs, and how to apply for them, are explicitly required in the study process outlined by HB 4043. Every community college has staff and faculty assigned to complete this work, and I believe their input should be a requirement in developing any report required under Section 1 of this bill.

Currently, the bill references “relevant stakeholders,” and I believe will be followed in good faith. However, a guarantee that existing staff or faculty will be involved in creating the final report will ensure its accuracy and relevance. Because students are the largest group of stakeholders affected by this report, it is essential that their concerns are addressed, and they have the opportunity to apply for benefits. It is my belief that staff and faculty who interact with students daily are the best suited for researching and providing these resources.

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 activities, leadership, or counseling.*

Best regards,

Kaitlin Hakanson

Student Engagement & Leadership Coordinator, Social Sciences Adjunct Faculty  
Klamath Community College