

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 Rebekah Dodson from Klamath Falls, Oregon and an employee of Klamath Community College.

As an instructor at Klamath Community College, in a rural, economically depressed location of Oregon, I have worked with a variety of students that possess a dire need access to support. I have watched many students leave our institution due to a lack of services to support their academic venture. Regarding HB 4043, I am in full support of a study to determine the necessity of these services to contribute to student success. Students with access to support are more likely to graduate and be able to contribute to the workforce. At our institution, a full-time employee has been assigned to assist students with services.

The bill references “relevant stakeholders,” and I believe this will be followed in good faith. However, I object to the generic description, as a specific full-time employee already employed with the college needs to be assigned to this role to assist students with their needs. 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, provides support for student engagement, activities, or leadership.

Sincerely,

Rebekah Dodson