

Oregon Council of Presidents



February 14, 2018

Chair Roblan, Vice-Chair Linthicum, and Members of the Senate Education Committee,

Oregon Health and Sciences University (OHSU) and the seven public universities in Oregon, share Senator Thatcher's commitment to student service men and women in ensuring that they can serve their state and country and return to their education programs with ease.

We support SB 1557 and appreciate Senator Thatcher's collaboration on the -2 amendment. OHSU and the Oregon Council of Presidents brought forth the amendment to preserve institutional concerns about faculty academic discretion and accreditation.

As we reviewed the -2 amendments earlier this week, the universities and the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) noted an additional technical change that will be needed in the sections that address student financial aid. An additional amendment will clarify the HECC's authority over financial aid. Unfortunately, the pace of the session pre-empted our ability to draft amendments in time for the committee's consideration and we pledge to work collaboratively in the House to address this issue.

We appreciate Senator Thatcher's diligent work on this bill, and thank you for your consideration and support of SB 1557 and the -2 amendment.

Sincerely,

Dana Richardson
Executive Director
Oregon Council of Presidents

Joyce Brake
Associate Director, State Relations
Oregon Health & Science University