



Emily Wanous

OSA Legislative Director

emily@orstudents.org

(541) 240-1432

Dear Chair Dembrow, Vice-Chair Thomsen and members of the committee,

For the record, my name is Emily Wanous and I am the Legislative Director for the Oregon Student Association.

Over the past decade, the State of Oregon has made key steps in transfer, such as the creation of the transfer student bill of rights in 2011 and HB 2998 in 2019. While these bills created a strong foundation in this area of concern, there is still more work that needs to be done to ensure students have the necessary tools and awareness as they go on their transfer journey.

When reviewing the Ford Family Foundation's case study from 2019 titled "[Supporting Transfer Student Success in Oregon](#)", we find that 80 percent of students who transfer from a community college to a four year institution have stayed in the state. With that, I would argue it is in the legislator's best interest to prioritize transfer credit work. It is far too common today for students to experience an excess of unused credits after graduation; meaning students waste time, money and effort while going through post secondary education. On top of this, due to a lack of state financial support, our community colleges and universities are continuously pricing out more and more students. We can no longer sit idly by and hope the issue of transfer will iron itself out. Students do not have the luxury to spend hundreds of dollars on courses that will not apply to their Bachelor's degree later on in their education.

Diving further into the [Ford Family's case study](#) recommended next steps, Oregon has key areas in which we can grow. Some areas of improvement were identified for the following areas: the implementation of online tools (ex: statewide transfer portal), investments for transfer student supports (ex: student advising and training), and the need to develop and maintain transfer agreements amongst decision makers.

LC 1427, which would create a common course numbering system in Oregon, would be a sound next step to build onto the great work higher education advocates have done to get us where we are today. A common course numbering system would allow for students to more effectively plan ahead, budget and stay on track to graduate in their chosen amount of time. Common course numbering is a good start to applying what we know about transfer in our State and implementing such knowledge in a way that directly eases the student's transfer experience through the use of a clear numbering system.

Thank you for your time and I welcome any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Emily Wanous