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February 25, 2019

Dear Chair Doherty and Members of the Committee:

My name is Ann Buchele, and I am the Vice President of Academic Affairs and Workforce Development at Linn-Benton Community College. I am writing to share a notable concern we have with House Bill 2213.

LBCC supports all the great work the legislature has done with open education resources and textbook affordability. This work has made a significant impact on our students' ability to afford college.

In addition, LBCC supports the spirit of HB 2213—providing textbook information to students—but we do have a concern with the language in section 2, subsection (2), which states that the list of required textbooks must be available on course descriptions no later than the first day on which a student can enroll in a course.

To better clarify our concern, I need to first explain LBCC's recent work with student retention and completion. Three years ago, LBCC joined 29 other community colleges across the nation in embarking on what is commonly known as Guided Pathways – a clear, direct pathway for each student that leads to a formal award or transfer to a four-year university. There are many facets to Guided Pathways: redesigning advising to focus on the individual needs of each student, mapping programs to show students the ideal term-by-term course load, implementing early alert systems to intervene with students before they are lost, and reducing or eliminating the developmental education sequence.

As part of LBCC's Guided Pathways work, we are eliminating barriers to student scheduling by offering courses when and where the students need them. To do this, we are experimenting with multi-term registration. This means a student can register for the entire amount of course work they need before they begin, and we in turn guarantee they will have the courses they need when they need them. No longer will a student have to get up at 5:00 am to register for a class that may fill in 30 seconds.

It is this multi-term registration that brings me back to our concern with HB 2213. Allowing a student to register for a course many months or even years in advance will not align with the bill's requirement that the textbook be known at the point of registration.

There are five other Oregon community colleges embarking on the Guided Pathways journey, and those five colleges will face the same challenge with the proposed language.

Please consider eliminating the language in section 2, subsection (2).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ann Buchele". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Dr. Ann Buchele
Vice President of Academic Affairs and Workforce Development
Linn-Benton Community College