



Oregon State
University

Family Resource Center
Oregon State University
1030 SW Madison Ave
Champinefu Lodge 211 & 213
Corvallis, Oregon 97333
P 541-737-4906
familyresources.oregonstate.edu

Comments on SB 794

For the record, Amy Luhn and Kristi King are representing support for SB 794. Amy Luhn is the Director of the Family Resource Center at Oregon State University and Kristi King is the Student Family Coordinator with the Family Resource Center. OSU's Family Resource Center provides programs and direct services in support of OSU's student parent population and all OSU families with dependent care needs.

We support SB794 which will result in the statewide collection of student parent data from all post-secondary publicly funded schools. Students with children are a growing population across our state and country and the ability to understand and quantify this demographic has the potential to inform decision makers at all levels, from resource allocation to program development and delivery. Nationally, students with children are less like to graduate than their non-parenting peers (Institute for Women's Policy Research. 2017. "College Students with Children, National and Regional Profiles.") and at this point we have minimal ability to understand retention and graduation rates for this population. Other than data specific to the student parents we have served through our programs and services, such as our child care financial assistance program and our free short term drop in child care, we lack the ability to understand the academic success of our student parents across the institution.

A university's ability to collect this self-identified student data through SB 794 will have an immediate impact on our ability to engage with and support those students. We will be able to begin reaching out, engaging with student parents as they are admitted and enroll for classes, letting them know about the resources and services, like the Family Resource Center at OSU, we are able to offer them. Currently, student parents have to find us, see us at a tabling event or someone on campus has to tell them about us. You can imagine how many student parents are not aware of services with these methods of connection. It is not uncommon for a junior or senior to walk in to our office, having just heard about the Family Resource Center. Within a student parent's first term or two, our office will have the ability to begin identifying those student parents who may be at risk academically, which could trigger additional outreach to and support for them. SB 794 will also give our office more robust information regarding student parents, so we can continue to improve, modify and change programming and services, as needed, to support our student parents in to the future. The University Registrar and the Director of Admissions have reviewed the proposed legislation and support the concept. Both have agreed that it is possible for OSU to collect the data so that the institution can provide outreach and offer much needed services to these students.

OSU has been providing services and supports to student parents for many years and we are excited to be able to truly know who our student parents and who is enrolling each year at OSU. We are looking forward to ensuring that they know about the Family Resource Center before they step on to campus and can begin to benefit from the supports and services available to them immediately. Additionally, OSU has a strong history of transferring students in from the community colleges, especially with our Degree Partnership Program. It is exciting to think about how SB794 could enhance our ability to work closely with community colleges as we seamlessly transfer in student parents.

Thank you for your support!